

Jordan Times

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Israel prevents Hamas-Fateh meeting

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel on Wednesday refused two Islamic leaders from the occupied Gaza Strip travel permits to meet Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Dr. Mahmoud Al Zahhar said the Israeli authorities gave him and Dr. Abdel Aziz Al Rantisi no explanation. An Israeli spokesman confirmed the decision to deny permits to the Palestinians but would not elaborate. Israel now bans contact with the PLO but is in the process of dropping a blanket prohibition. Both physicians, who are closely associated with the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement, have said they wanted to discuss recent developments with Mr. Arafat's movement instead of next week's resumption of Middle East peace talks. "This is a wrong decision which does not serve the interests of our people. On the contrary it feeds internal strife," said Dr. Zahhar.

'Gulf war did less damage than expected'

LONDON (R) — The huge oil spills and the burning of oil wells in Kuwait during the Gulf war did less damage than expected, scientists say. A team from the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) marine environment laboratory in Monaco collected samples of sediments, bivalve molluscs and fish along the Gulf from June to October last year to check the extent of the pollution. The scientists said in a report published in the British science magazine Nature that oil pollution around Bahrain, in particular, was below levels recorded before the Gulf war and set off oil spillages which environmentalists feared would cause an ecological disaster. The report suggested this was because there were fewer oil tankers in the Gulf after the war. "We found that concentrations in sediments from even the most heavily contaminated sites were relatively low, and comparable to levels reported for the Baltic Sea, coastal locations of the northeastern United States and United Kingdom estuaries," said the report. "Our results show that severe oil pollution was restricted primarily to the Saudi Arabian coastline within 400 kilometres from the spillages."

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House continues debate on draft law

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday continued debate on the press and publications draft law starting from article 14. The House approved the article, which specifies conditions that should be available in the chief editor to be available in the Law Committee. It only added a paragraph that required from the chief editor to be resident in the Kingdom. The House then approved amendments by the Law Committee in articles 15 and 16.

Amman to host ASTA HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — The first congress of Arab scientists and technologists working abroad decided Wednesday to establish a network called Arab Scientists and Technologists Abroad (ASTA) which will be based in Amman. The congress, which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and attended by 54 scientists and technologists living and working abroad, decided to have its second premises in Illinois, Chicago congress chairman Munir Nayfeh said. Dr. Nayfeh, who is a professor of physics at the University of Illinois, said the choice of Amman as the headquarters for ASTA demonstrates the appreciation of expatriate Arab scientists for Jordan's principal role in transferring technology to the Arab World. The congress, which concluded its three-day meetings in Amman Wednesday (see page 2), issued a set of recommendations which included forming a temporary board of trustees for ASTA. The board of trustees was entrusted with preparing ASTA's internal system as well as work, finance and expenditure regulations so as to be endorsed in the coming conference of the network.

Israel, China sign trade agreement

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel and China signed a trade agreement on Wednesday, and Israeli officials hailed the deal as a great opportunity for local industry. "A market has been opened of 1.2 billion people. This is an enormous market," said Zvi Koren, director general of Israel's trade and industry ministry. China is interested in doing business with Israel as a "good source to buy the things it needs for technological development," Mr. Koren told Israeli radio. Mr. Koren said there was some trade even before the two countries established diplomatic relations in January. He said Israel exported \$30 million a year to China via third countries, mainly agricultural equipment. The Israelis indirectly bought \$4 million from the Chinese, mainly shoes and clothes. Media reports have said that Israel also sold military hardware to China in the past. Israel never comments on such reports. Mr. Koren said he expected Israeli exports to China to double within a year. He said the Chinese are looking to buy, among other things, new technologies developed in Israel in recent years. In another boost to trade, Israel's national airline El Al will start direct flights to Beijing in September.

5 held in U.S. in arms probe

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Two high-ranking Egyptian military officers, a Ugandan official and two U.S. citizens were arrested Tuesday in an alleged \$18 million scheme to illegally export anti-tank missiles to Uganda. The two Egyptians, the Ugandan and one of the Americans were arrested in Orlando, while the fifth arrest, of Turkish-born arms dealer Nezh Kent of New York City, was at Kennedy international airport in New York, according to a statement from U.S. Customs Service. The arrests followed a 10-month investigation in which U.S. customs agents posed as illegal dealers in the \$18 million deal for 400 Tow anti-tank missiles and 34 Tow launchers, customs officials said. Those arrested had sought to ship the missiles and launchers to Geneva, then illegally transshiping the order on to Uganda, according to the customs statement.

Sharif Zeid: No 'political' detainees in Jordan, torture charge baseless

Premier refutes House panel's report, explains policy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said Wednesday that Jordan's jails contain no political prisoners and those now in prison are ordinary criminals. "Jordanian prisons are subject to the provisions of the law with respect to visit and inspections by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International," Sharif Zeid said in response to a report presented by the Lower House's Public Freedoms Committee. The committee had referred to alleged arrests and cases in which people were banned from assuming government positions or denied employment for political reasons, he noted. The report also referred to alleged violations by the government of numerous articles of the Constitution and accused the government of failing to take serious measures to deal with these issues. The report only contains issues referred to in general terms and does not present specific details and in some cases fails to cite the

relevant articles in the Constitution, the prime minister noted. "All reports related to public freedoms cases and human rights in the world are normally accurate and well-balanced and they usually refer to positive as well as negative aspects," he said. "Thanks to our democratic experiment, we have been successful as a united and coherent society in finding solutions to basic and substantial problems related to law enforcement, including issues relevant to public freedoms and human rights," Sharif Zeid said. "Jordanians enjoy public freedoms as guaranteed by the Constitution and this means freedom of thought and expression. The martial law and the 1935 defence law have been abolished and the judicial authorities have been granted full right to protect the citizens' constitutional rights," he added. "Efforts are continuing towards finalising the last links in the process of ensuring all public freedoms, like the political parties and the press and publication laws," he noted. "We are proud to have achieved these rights. But this achievement should not divert

our attention from accurately and precisely addressing excesses and violations of the law," he said. "The committee, which referred to violations of articles 5 to 23 of the Constitution, did not refer to the rights and duties of citizens guaranteed by the same Constitution and failed to mention that people violating the law should bear the consequences," he added. "A review of the committee's report and by studying it against the articles and the provisions of the law the following points came to light," the prime minister said: "Arrests: Since assuming responsibility as prime minister, I have issued specific instructions to the security services to strictly abide by the rules while discharging their duty. I was later assured that these services were conducting their duties in line with the law under all circumstances despite the difficult conditions and dangers in some cases," Sharif Zeid said. He said that there might be some individual cases that require following up and the government is open to listen to any view in any case in which excesses might have been committed. "I would like to reassure Par-

liament members that all that they referred to under the 'arrests' title in the report are isolated cases... governed by rules and regulations concerning visits and inspections conducted by the ICRC and other organisations which want to ensure that all conditions for inmates are acceptable," the premier said. "I refer in particular to the term 'torture' which appears in the report and the related fabricated stories which are totally baseless. It was proved beyond doubt and through courts that there was no truth in such accusations and no truth about stories related to torture," he added. The General Intelligence Department and its role in appointments: The government is committed to preventing security services from interfering in employment appointments and this has been applied ever since the 1989 general elections," Sharif Zeid said. "The General Intelligence Department is committed to implementing the instructions given by the prime minister in 1989 concerning its views in the process of appointments. Yet the government had made it clear

(Continued on page 5)

Allies draw up 'no-fly zone' ultimatum for Baghdad

Combined agency dispatches

U.S.-LED ALLIES have drawn up an ultimatum for Iraq, threatening to shoot down Iraqi warplanes and helicopter gunships unless air attacks on Shiite Muslim rebels in the country's south are halted. In Washington, a Bush administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Wednesday that the United States, Britain and France would deliver written messages of warning "fairly soon" to the Iraqi U.N. mission. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that approach was being taken because the three Western nations do not have normal relations with Iraq in their capitals or in Baghdad. In Brussels, Zaid Haider, Iraq's ambassador to Belgium and the 12-nation European Community (EC), said Wednesday that the plan was "a provocative action to push Iraq to" take some action that would give the allies "a pretext for military action against Iraq." "The whole aim is to boost the

electoral campaign of Mr. Bush," he said. "But I believe myself that my government is wise enough not to fall for this provocative action," Mr. Haider said. The warning by Britain, France and the United States, described by diplomatic sources on Tuesday, comes as tensions rise over difficulties Iraq has given U.N. weapons inspectors and reports of a stepped-up Iraqi campaign against the Shiite rebels. British Prime Minister John Major has committed warplanes and troops to Iraq in Britain's first big show of force since the Gulf war. Britain said it would send six Tornado combat aircraft to help enforce the "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq and up to 1,800 ground troops to help guard United Nations aid convoys in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina. Britain, France and the United States are expected to start mounting round-the-clock air patrols over southern Iraq. Mr. Major said the air exclusion zone was being imposed because there was "clear evidence of systematic murder and

genocide — of the 'Shiites' — and 'fairly good reports of napalm being used.'" Mr. Major said that if Iraqi military aircraft violated the exclusion zone in the south they would be shot out of the sky. "We will instruct the Iraqis not to fly in that area. They will be attacked if they fly in the area that is proscribed," he said in a television interview. "I think we have seen that, (as) in the past, they would lose." Iraq denies that it uses planes to bomb Shiites in the southeastern marshes bordering Iran and Kuwait, but says they harbour army deserters and Iranian infiltrators. The "zone" would include the Shiite holy city of Najaf, about 10 kilometres south of the 32nd Parallel but exclude the holy city of Karbala, about 50 kilometres north of the line. Gulf Arab states will back Western plans, officials and diplomats in the region said. But they said the Gulf states hoped the step would not lead to renewed fighting or the formal

(Continued on page 5)

Assault on Kabul continues

ISLAMABAD (R) — Dissident Mujahedeen fighters launched ground attacks on Wednesday in their two-week battle to wrest the Afghan capital Kabul from the Islamic coalition government, Mujahedeen sources said. Street battles raged between Hezb-e-Islami guerrillas and troops loyal to the government defending positions around the ancient fort of Bala Hissar in southern Kabul, the sources said by telephone from the Pakistani border town of Peshawar. "The Hezb-e-Islami appear to have launched a new offensive in their strategy against the government," one source said. Fundamentalist Hezb leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar had previously relied mainly on rockets, and artillery in his battle with government forces. More than 1,000 people have been killed or injured and tens of thousands have fled since the blistering rockets attacks began two weeks ago. The Hezb fired hundreds of rockets into Kabul throughout Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning, targeting military positions, the sources said. "It was a very bad night. We think many residents may have

'World doing too little, too late to help Africa'

GENEVA (Agencies) — A senior United Nations official on Wednesday criticised the international community for doing too little too late to help African brought victims and said he expected the crisis to worsen. Nicolas Bwakira, the U.N. high commissioner for refugees' director for Africa, said there were six million refugees on the continent and their conditions were deteriorating. He is from Burundi. Mr. Bwakira said a \$55 million appeal for Angola made this year had raised just \$2 million. Including the Angola appeal, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had managed to attract pledges of just \$20 million from \$30 million it needed for extra-budgetary projects in Africa in 1992, he added. "We are complaining or should not complain that there is attention or interest for Yugoslavia. To the contrary we are pleased to see the interest for Yugoslavia," Mr. Bwakira said. But he said that although Commissioner Sadako Ogata considered all refugees to be equally deserving, she could not tell governments where to put their money. "The high commissioner has equal interest and equal compassion for refugees worldwide. But

the high commissioner is not a donor government, she is appealing to governments and the governments decide where they direct their contributions. "It is a fact that today they are not paying sufficient attention to Africa," Mr. Bwakira told a news conference. Mr. Bwakira's plea for aid comes as the international community prepared a massive airlift of aid for famine-hit Somalia. American officials made final preparations Wednesday to airlift 145,000 tonnes of food during the next two months to 1.5 million starving people and million more who need help, officials said. Marine Brigadier General Frank Libutti, who heads the military operation, U.S. ambassador to Kenya Smith Hempstone, and two other officials flew to Baidoa, Somalia — the first place they hope to feed. While Somalia's plight has been termed the world's worst humanitarian tragedy, far larger than that in former Yugoslavia, Baidoa has been described as the worst of the worst. Tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of people already have died. By United Nations estimate, another 1.5 million people face imminent starvation with a further 4.5 million in need of assistance.

Republicans fired up

HOUSTON (AP) — Republicans were to formally nominate George Bush for a second four-year term as president Wednesday night, a prelude to the 10-week finale of the campaign for America's Nov. 3 general election. The party was sending Mr. Bush into the autumn struggle with speeches at its national convention by his wife and number one fan, Barbara Bush, and by Mrs. Marilyn Quayle, wife of vice-presidential running mate Dan Quayle. They were expected to emphasise family values. Family values, a favourite Republican theme, provided the umbrella earlier during the convention for attacks on Democrats for supporting abortion rights, homosexual rights and liberal welfare policies. Ross Perot, the Texas billionaire who got widespread support in a bid for the presidency, dismissed the convention as "show business." He said neither major party had a genuine economic programme. People might vote for him despite his withdrawal from the race, he added. Mr. Bush was assured of renomination after dominating state-by-state Republican primary elections that began last winter. The convention ends Thursday with his formal acceptance, in a nationally televised appeal for support and call for action that supporters hope can overcome democratic challenger Bill Clinton's big lead in polls. Republicans from Mr. Bush on down promised Tuesday to fight with fervor. "He's fired up," Jeb Bush said of his father. "He eats nails for breakfast." Intra-party feuds were still brewing over how far to go in making new economic proposals. Secretary of State James Baker, the new chief of the Bush White House staff and of the campaign, was arriving to referee. The president promised some new faces in his cabinet if reelected, "as in any second term." To dampen speculation about an imminent shakeup, Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Bush was not referring to any specific individuals. Tuesday, a downturn in housing starts underscored the weak economy at the centre of Mr. Bush's political troubles. Wednesday brought good news for the Bush camp: The government said the U.S. trade deficit shrank 7.7 per cent to \$6.9 billion in June as sales of American goods overseas set a new record.



King undergoes tests at Mayo

ROCHESTER (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein underwent further tests at the Mayo Clinic on Wednesday as doctors tried to find the cause of the monarch's urinary tract infection, a clinic spokesman said. "At this point, it is too early in the process to determine the results of the tests," spokesman Chris Gade said. The 56-year-old King arrived in Rochester Monday night and tests began the following day. Jordanian officials told the clinic that King Hussein was satisfied with the progress of his case and was pleased with the care he is receiving, Mr. Gade said. Her Majesty Queen Noor has been staying with him, Mr. Gade said. The length of King Hussein's stay has not been determined, Mr. Gade said. While at Mayo, the King also is undergoing a general physical exam, which usually takes two to three days. King Hussein had been receiving treatment for urinary tract bleeding since Saturday at the King Hussein Medical Centre. His private physician, Dr. Samir Farraj, said the King's condition is "not serious," but he advised King Hussein to seek care "in a specialised clinic, which has the advanced techniques and equipment that we lack in Jordan." The King was accompanied by a team of physicians.

Arabs want U.S. to renew commitment

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The United States has damaged its credibility as an "honest broker" in Middle East peace talks by giving loan guarantees and military pledges to Israel, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Wednesday. He said he and the foreign ministers of other Arab peace talks participants, who were meeting in Damascus Wednesday, would ask Washington to renew the promises of fair play to enable negotiations which started in Madrid last October to continue. "The U.S. gave the loan guarantees to Israel without getting a pledge ensuring a total halt of Israeli settlement activities (in occupied territories)," Mr. Sharaa told reporters, referring to the outcome of new Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to the United States this month. "It also pledged to preserve Israel's qualitative military edge and revived the strategic alliance with her." "This does not go in line with the role of the honest mediator." The meeting began at 7:40 p.m. (1640 GMT) at the Meridien Hotel. It was attended by Mr. Sharaa, Faris Rouez of Lebanon and Kamel Abu Jaber of Jordan. Also present were the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Farouk Kaddoumi, Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Ibrahim Awfi, and Faisal Hussein, an adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Mr. Sharaa said the meeting did not intend to discuss the possibility of delaying peace talks due to resume in Washington on Monday. "Postponement or non-postponement... is not our concern here. Our concern is the negative outcome of Rabin's visit to the U.S. and its effects of distancing the U.S. from playing the role of an honest mediator in the peace talks." Mr. Sharaa said the meeting would urge the United States to restore its credibility and its role as "an honest mediator which is not biased to Israel during the peace talks." "The Arabs would also ask the

United States to reiterate the pledges it made previously which led to the opening of the peace talks in Madrid last October," Mr. Sharaa said. He said he was referring to President George Bush's promise to work for a just and comprehensive settlement on basis of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338. Saeh Erekat, a member of the Palestinian negotiating team, told reporters the participants were meeting here to "coordinate our stands 'or peace and not for war.'" "We cannot expect the peace talks to succeed until all settlement building ends," he said. The PLO representative to Lebanon, Stafie Hout, said the Palestinians will seek to learn from the other Arab parties what they know of the deal between Israel and the United States. "Our stand will depend on that," Mr. Hout said. "The Americans have freed the loan guarantees for Israel. We would like to know why they've freed for us in return." Mr. Hout said that the Arab officials may decide to delay the Washington talks. "But that will not solve the problem," he said. "We should be politically compensated for the (settlements) deal." In Oslo, a PLO official said the Rabin government must relax its "iron fist" and freeze construction in the occupied territories if it wants peace in the Middle East. "We believe the continuation of the iron-fist policy and... occupation can only lead to more violence," said Bassam Abu Sharif, an adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. Mr. Abu Sharif told a news conference that Mr. Rabin has continued the policies of Mr. Shamir in the occupied territories. "These are factors that can endanger the peace process," said Mr. Abu Sharif, starting a European tour seeking support prior to the new round of peace talks. "We hope that... the new Israeli government would put into practice policies... to convince Palestinians that the real intent is for peace," he said.

Peres: Israel wants to get into the heart of Mideast conflict

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday it would be a "tragic mistake" if Arab governments did not respond to the new Israeli government's overtures for a serious peace dialogue. He made the statements at a news conference five days before U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace negotiations are due to resume in Washington. Arab leaders were meeting Wednesday in Damascus after expressing hesitation about attending the peace talks. The Arabs have complained that the freeing of U.S. loan guarantees to Israel — without a freeze on Jewish settlements — raises doubts about the U.S. role as a fair mediator. Mr. Peres, who left later

Wednesday on a four-day trip to Moscow, told members of the foreign press association that Israel was serious in its offer of limited self-government for the Palestinians in the occupied territories. He said the new Labour-led government hoped elections for an Arab administrative council could be held within a year. "I think it will be tragic if the Palestinians or the foreign ministers of the Arab countries will reject it or postpone it," he said of the autonomy offer. On the meeting in Damascus, he added: "It will be a tragic mistake on the part of the Arabs to appear negative, demanding, conditioning, postponing." "We mean business... we are ready to start a meaningful dia-

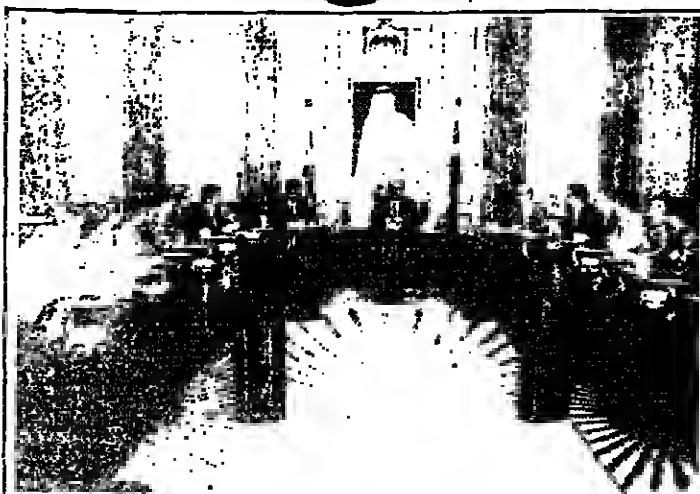
logue," he said. "We are going to be more concerned with the content of the negotiations rather than with the niceties," Mr. Peres said. "We want to go to the heart of the question and we don't want to be held back by trivialities." Mr. Peres said Labour, would not ignore United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal. He said that if it had the choice Labour would have concentrated on reaching an agreement first with the Palestinians, leaving the Syrians until later. But it was committed to three sets of simultaneous talks with Syria, Lebanon and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian team. (Continued on page 5)

Israeli justice minister urges halt to expulsions during peace talks

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's new justice minister on Wednesday spoke out against expulsions of Palestinians from the occupied territories and proposed that the measure be suspended during Middle East peace talks. David Libai also said he would like to see the army stop demolishing homes of Palestinians suspected of anti-Israeli violence. In exchange, the Palestinians should halt violence against Israel "as a gesture to the new government," he said. Palestinian peace negotiators demand that Israel halt these types of punishment as a show of good faith towards the peace talks which are to resume Monday in Washington. Western nations, including the United States, sharply oppose expulsions as a violation of international law and house demolitions as a form of collective punish-

ment. Israel has expelled 73 Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since the start of the Palestinian uprising against the occupation in December 1987. Many of the expulsions, orders were signed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin when he was defence minister in the early days of the revolt. Mr. Libai told reporters Wednesday that expulsions are "problematic because of the norms of international law." "It is preferable from my point of view that we would not need the (expulsion) punishment at all, and personally I would prefer that we would avoid it," Mr. Libai said. The Fourth Geneva Convention bars the mass or individual transfer of civilians from occupied areas. Palestinians can appeal expul-

sion orders to the Israeli supreme court and there are 11 such appeals now pending. So far, the high court has rejected all appeals. Mr. Libai proposed Wednesday that expulsion be suspended during the peace talks "in an effort to create a comfortable atmosphere before the negotiations with the Palestinians and to contribute to the respect of human rights in (the West Bank) and Gaza." Israel army radio said Mr. Libai took the proposal to Mr. Rabin. Concerning house demolitions, Mr. Libai said: "I have reservations about this punishment, especially because we are talking about a home where other members of the family live." More than 400 homes have been demolished since the start of the uprising.



REGENT MEETS ARAB SCIENTISTS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday met with the participants in the first congress of Arab Scientists and Technologists Abroad (ASTA) and urged them to help transfer their expertise and skills to their own home countries. There is need for linking science and technology with human resources development, and there is a close link between the applications of science and technology and the various aspects of people's social, economic and political lives, said the Regent at the meeting, which came at the conclusion of the ASTA three-day congress. The congress was opened Monday with an address by Prince Hassan, delivered on his behalf by Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, president of Zarqa University. In the address, Prince Hassan drew attention to the Arab World's numerous problems and called on scientists to help overcome them. The Regent said there was need for spreading awareness among the various sectors of the Arab community about the importance of scientific and technological applications in daily life. He said it is the duty of the scientists to spread such awareness and it is the duty of the scientists and the technologists to pursue cooperation among themselves through seminars and conferences for the discussion of scientific research projects.

Bataineh urges appropriate handling of solid waste

AMMAN (J.T.) — Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh Wednesday opened a three-day training seminar on effective handling of solid waste and the most appropriate methods of disposing of it.

A total of 14 Arab and Islamic countries are taking part in the meeting which will focus on methods of protecting the environment from solid waste.

The Health Ministry in Jordan gives due attention to the environment and considers solid waste one of the most dangerous pollutants, Dr. Bataineh told the seminar, which is organized by the World Health Organisation (WHO). He said dangerous waste, particularly industrial waste, threatens environment and adversely affects human health.

Jordan, he said, has adopted the method of dumping and covering solid waste as an effective means of disposing of this poisonous material. He said the Health Ministry is also studying new methods for the treatment of some non-poisonous waste, with the purpose of benefiting from it for other purposes.

Last year the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment announced that toxic materials and poisonous waste from Jordanian industries can be dumped at a site nearly 50 kilometres south east of Amman.

The Ministry said in a statement that it made arrangements



Aref Bataineh

enabling Jordanian companies to dump the waste at the site near Swaqa.

Dr. Hussein Jazairy, WHO regional director, told the seminar that most of countries within the Mediterranean zone have recently witnessed an increase in the volume of solid waste due to industrialisation.

Inappropriate collecting, storing and disposing of solid waste could endanger public health condition. In the region, said Dr. Jazairy.

He expressed regret that many of the countries in the region have not yet realised the dangers of inappropriate handling of waste.

The Ministry of Health and WHO, are jointly sponsoring the seminar which is entitled "Solid Waste Management."

House panel condemns U.S. aggression on Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Freedoms Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday issued a strong statement condemning what it called America's aggression on Iraq and its continued embargo against the Iraqi people.

The statement said America's attitude constitutes a flagrant aggression on the rights of the Iraqi people. By acting in such manner, the U.S. administration is taking advantage of its position as the main world power, imposing itself as a policeman of the world and adopting cheap methods to do this job, the statement said.

"We strongly condemn the arrogance displayed by the U.S. government and its disregard to people's rights," said the statement.

Under the pretext of searching for weapons, the U.N. inspectors are being used to serve Washington's purpose, and through the blockade imposed on the Agaba-bound shipping, the United States is imposing an embargo on the Jordanian people too, noted the statement.

The statement stressed that the U.S. behaviour contradicts all international norms and laws and encroaches on Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as the dignity and freedom of the Jordanian people.

"We would like to remind the United States that resorting to bloody confrontation in collusion

with other major powers, and trying to implement suspicious plans considered hostile to the Arab nation's interests, can by no means affect our Jordanian people's steadfastness," said the statement.

It said that the Jordanian people will offer all possible sacrifices in order to protect their dignity and freedom in the face of all oppressive measures.

"We call on all local, pan Arab and international organisations to stand firm in the face of the U.S.-Zionist plots and conspiracies and prevent them from escalating tension that can only serve their own selfish interests and can be detrimental to human kind and people's dignity and freedom."

The committee's statement also condemned "the puppet" serving major powers which are continually calling for another aggression on Iraq and the Arab World. It said that the agents of the major powers will not go unpunished and the day will come when they will be held accountable for their treachery and for siding with the enemies of the Arab Nation.

The committee demanded that the United States stop all manifestations of arrogance and all acts which contradict with the logic of civilisation and humanity, urging all peaceful powers and democracies to stand firm on the side of Arab just demands.

Students begin new school year

AMMAN (J.T.) — Nearly 1.3 million elementary and secondary school students will go to school Saturday at the start of the new academic year 1992-3, Ministry of Education Secretary General Munther Al Masri announced Wednesday.

Dr. Al Masri said that 110,000 new students will be joining the first primary class for their first time in their lives this year.

He said that a total of 80,000 students, who came from Kuwait and other Gulf states, have been absorbed by the government schools under special arrangements which took into consideration the difficulties they were

facing upon returning here. According to Dr. Masri, the Ministry of Education this year appointed 3,000 new teachers in order to cope with the increase in the huge number of students. He also said the ministry has made full preparations for the new school year and printed most of the required textbooks.

Dr. Masri told Jordan News Agency (Petra) that 97 per cent of the 15 million textbooks that the ministry will distribute this year have already been received by schools, adding that the ministry will soon distribute the remaining textbooks which are still under print.

Iraqi ambassador visits JPA

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Noori Ismail Alwies Wednesday visited the Jordan Press Association (JPA) where he was received by JPA President 'Sleiman' Al Qudah and members of the association's board.

Mr. Alwies reviewed with Mr. Qudah and JPA board members relations between journalists in Jordan and Iraq and ways of enhancing them.

Discussions at the meeting also

centred on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and challenges facing Jordanian journalists.

Mr. Alwies lauded the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and his support for the Iraqi people. Mr. Qudah stressed the commitment of the Jordanian press to the support of pan-Arab causes and its rejection of any conspiracies aimed at undermining Iraq's unity.

Shoul formally announces by-election results, says Madaba disturbances regrettable

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government Wednesday expressed regret over the isolated riots which occurred in Madaba towards the closing hours of the by-elections on Tuesday and defended its decision to extend polling time as a legal action.

Heads of committees in charge of voting centres exercised their legal rights by closing the ballot boxes at the fixed time and others were also right in extending the polling time because it was found necessary to do so, Interior Minister Jawdat Shoul said at a press conference during which he officially announced the results of the by-elections held at the fourth and sixth districts Tuesday.

The results showed that Mr. Anwar Mohammad Hadid won the vacant seat in parliament for the fourth district and Mr. Mohammad Khrebat won the seat for the sixth district.

In Madaba (the sixth district) police used tear gas to disperse rioters who stoned the district governor's office and smashed car windows in protest against a decision to extend the balloting



Interior Minister Jawdat Shoul Wednesday announces the official results of Tuesday's parliamentary by-elections at a press conference. (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

time by two hours.

Authorities later decided to reduce the extension time to 45 minutes, and the police made several arrests.

There was no justification for such disturbances which were later denounced by all parties, said the minister. He said that the voting took place in a free and fair atmosphere which reflected true democratic life in the country.

Firm measures will be taken against all those trying to cause disturbances, said the minister.

Mr. Shoul said all registered voters were given the chance to cast ballots in the two districts and the election process was described by all candidates or their representatives as fair and orderly.

The minister said seven candidates contested the seat in the fourth district, and only 12,884

cast ballots out of 35,834 registered voters with the final result showing that Mr. Hadid won 3,734 votes.

In the sixth district, where three candidates contested the single vacant seat, Mr. Shoul said out of 33,874 registered voters, only 21,138 cast ballots, with the final results showing that Mr. Khrebat winning 8,007 votes.

According to article 39 of the election law, polls should open at seven in the morning and close at seven in the evening, but officials in charge of the voting centre are empowered by law to extend the polling time until nine in the evening depending on the situation and the turnout of voters, noted the minister.

He said that the committees in charge of the voting centres exercised their full legal authority.

The minister said that the government was keen to remind the public of their right to vote, quoting Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker as saying that it is not only the right but also the duty of all citizens to take part in the elections.

Mr. Shoul said that people who have any objections to the elections can take their case to court.

New 'Soft' from Rado

As a complement to its successful DiaStar 'Ceramica' collection, the Rado Watch Co. Ltd. is now bringing a new model onto the market: the Ceramica 'Soft' with a high-tech ceramics case, a scratchproof sapphire crystal and an ultra-light, supple bracelet made of polyurethane. The new watch is a typical representative of the innovative Ceramica range: future-oriented in material, design and wearer-comfort. Water-resistant, quartz-precise and timeless.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Exhibitions

★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Fayez Dweik at Alia Art Gallery.



The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation and The Cultural Service of the French Embassy in Amman

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• The National Music Conservatory, tel. 667620

Industrial exhibit declared a success

AMMAN (J.T.) — A week-long specialised exhibit of Jordanian-made machinery spare parts ended Wednesday with organisers declaring it a great success.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Trade, which organised the exhibition in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry and Mining companies, said that some major firms in the mining field have expressed readiness to finance projects to manufacture spare parts required for Jordanian industry.

Dr. Muhammad Halaiga, director of industry at the Higher Council of Science and Technology, said that Jordan annually imports JD 200 million worth of spare parts for the major industry mining firms. He said large amounts of hard currency would be saved if these parts were manufactured locally.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade said that it will gather information about the industrialists' needs as expressed during their visit to the exhibit. It said it will put together information on the spare parts they can produce for the major mining firms which are the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Jordan Fertiliser Company, the Arab Potash Company and the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company.

The week-long exhibit, which was organised as part of the Kingdom's celebration of the 40th anniversary of his Majesty King Hussein's Accession to the Throne, displayed a range of spare parts that used to be imported from other countries.

Amir Omeish, from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, said the exhibit could open the door for Jordanian craftsmen, engineers and technicians to manufacture most spare parts for these major mining firms. In addition, he said, the new projects will provide jobs for unemployed Jordanians.

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ARAB BANK GROUP

Profile

Arab Bank Plc is owned by approximately 3,300 shareholders from all Arab countries. It was established in 1930 in Jerusalem - Palestine. The Bank started operations on July 14, 1930 with a paid-up capital of Palestinian Pounds 15,000 (at that time, a Palestinian Pound equalled US\$ 5). By the end of December 1991, the Group's equity was more than US\$ 950 million. In 1948, Arab Bank General Management was moved to Amman, the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Later the Bank was reincorporated in Jordan as a public shareholding company. Currently, Arab Bank Group has a worldwide and diversified network of more than 270 branches. Arab Bank Plc is one of the principal financial institutions in the Arab world and ranks among the leading international banks in terms of equity, earnings and assets. It is engaged in providing a wide variety of financial services to individuals, corporate and institutional customers, government agencies, and other international financial institutions. These services include retail banking, private banking, trade financing, merchant banking, commercial real estate lending and international banking.

Arab Bank Group employs a prudent asset management policy which is centered on selecting a prime loan portfolio and, at the same time, maintaining high liquidity. On June 30, 1992, the liquidity ratio (cash in hand and at banks and marketable securities to total assets) amounted to 65.6%. By the end of June 1992, Arab Bank Group's equity amounted to 6.4% of total assets. The capital adequacy ratio for the Group, measured according to the Basle Committee rule, was around 13%. Moreover, total equity corresponded to more than 21% of the loan portfolio, placing the Bank in a very sound financial position. During the first half of 1992, Arab Bank Group achieved a 12% growth in its assets. Total assets of the Group reached US\$ 14.7 billion. Most of the Group's external sources of funds are composed of stable customers' deposits which give the Group ample room to manage its assets efficiently and reflect the customers' long-standing confidence and loyalty. Total deposits at the end of June 1992 reached US\$ 13.4 Billion.

Arab Bank Group looks to the future with great optimism and determination. The Group plans to continue to play a leading role in the economies of the Arab world and at the same time, it will endeavour to enhance its position as a major financial institution in the international markets.

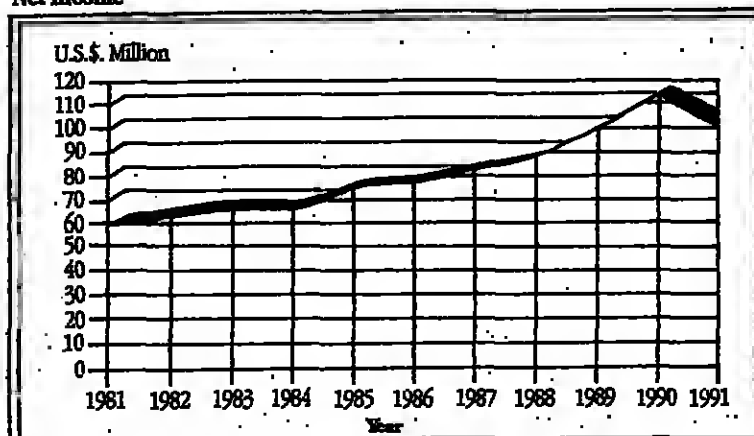
ARAB BANK GROUP

Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1992 and 1991

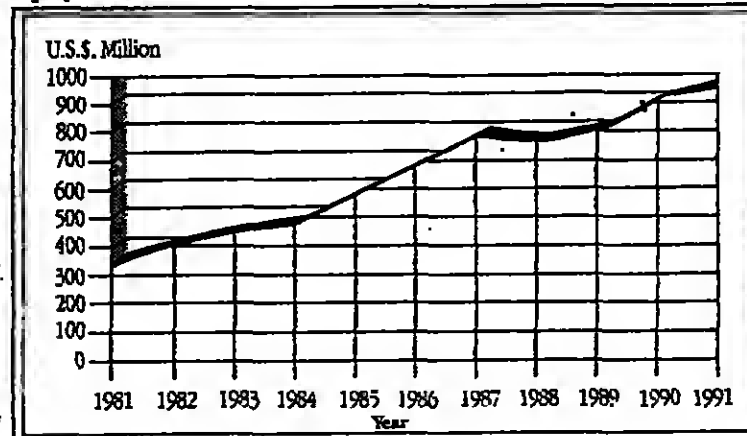
Assets	30/06/1992 US\$ (' 000)	30/06/1991 US\$ (' 000)	Liabilities	30/06/1992 US\$ (' 000)	30/06/1991 US\$ (' 000)
Cash in hand and at banks	8,361,143	7,712,421	Deposits and other accounts	13,368,503	12,012,182
Securities and investments	1,256,132	886,831	Acceptances	144,038	96,909
Loans and advances	4,340,583	3,878,744	Accrued interest payable	49,140	57,971
Customers' liability on acceptances	144,038	96,909	Other liabilities	152,194	122,656
Investments in associated companies	263,562	204,995	Total Liabilities	13,713,875	12,289,718
Premises and equipment	82,038	81,015	Shareholders' Equity		
Accrued interest receivable	90,767	93,485	Capital	139,246	118,905
Other assets	115,853	180,297	Statutory reserve	88,989	78,365
Total Assets	14,654,116	13,134,697	General reserve	591,222	547,604
Customers' liability on			Voluntary reserve	115,126	122,666
guarantees and letters of credit	3,274,459	2,508,555	Reserves with associated		
			companies	174,734	163,579
			Retained earnings	1,162	559
			Total	1,110,479	1,031,678
			Translation adjustments	(170,238)	(186,699)
			Total Shareholders' Equity	940,241	844,979
			Total liabilities and		
			Shareholders' Equity	14,654,116	13,134,697
			Guarantees and letters of credit	3,274,459	2,508,555
			Total	17,928,575	15,643,252

Net profit for the period ended June 30, 1992 and June 30, 1991 was included in "Other liabilities".

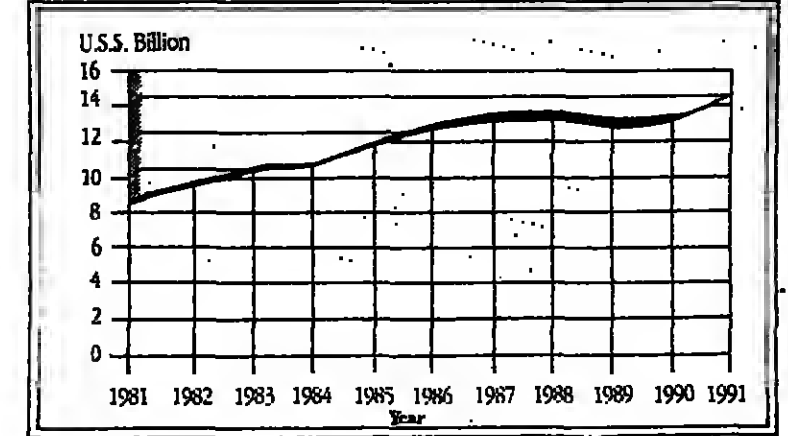
Net Income



Equity



Total Assets



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Wholly owned subsidiary

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%

Arab Tunisian Bank

64.24

Arab Bank Maroc

50

Oman Arab Bank S. A. O.

49

Arab National Bank, Saudi Arabia

40

Nigeria-Arab Bank Ltd.

40

UBAE Arab German Bank

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Same experience, again?

THE ALGERIAN authorities were reported early this week as cracking down on Algeria's free press, closing down three dailies. In their crackdown on the press, the authorities said they were doing that because they placed "the interests of Algeria before and above all." One newspaper, for example, was closed down because it reported that Italy had taken a decision to freeze financial credits to Algeria. Although Rome denied the report, the government called it an "attack on Algeria's higher interests." The Arab-language daily, Al Jazeera Al Youm — Algeria Today — was shut down because "it sowed doubt and confusion" that amount to an "attack on national unity."

The wording of the Algerian authorities' reasons for cracking down on the press can be similar to the articles of the press and publications law that are currently being debated and passed by the House of Parliament. In fact some of the articles in our draft law are identical to the quotes above.

That is why we think that the articles passed so far with strong prodding from the minister of information, himself a journalist and publisher, are extremely dangerous. As can be seen from the Algerian experience, the wording of our press and publications law makes it very easy for any government, whether on the left or right, to interpret the law in a way that would enable it to crush its opponents. Terms like national interest, national unity, respect for freedom, and so on and so forth are abstracts that can be loaded with any meaning depending on where different people stand on the issues.

It could be late, but hopefully not too late, to do anything about this confusing law. But we are hopeful that the Senate, full with law-minded notables, will block its passage the way it is. If not, then we will pin hope on His Majesty the King to intervene once again in favour of democracy and right of free expression and speech. If some of us are unable or unwilling to learn from the experience of our Algerian brothers, and for that matter the experience of all other nations, then we are likely to stumble the way they do.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

DEEP DOWN, the United States leaders depise certain Arab regimes and Arab leaders more than they hate the Iraqis, but they try to direct attention towards Iraq in a bid to continue looting the oil-rich states in the Gulf. This is the theme of an Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that on the part of certain Arab regimes and Arab media, the U.S. and its allies to launch yet another aggression on the Iraqi people, must be causing disgust in Washington, London and Paris, but upon seeing such treachery among certain Arabs trying to kill their kinsmen, these capitals are intent on carrying on with the conspiracy to achieve their own goals in the region, the paper added. The paper said that the three colonial powers — "and that they are ashamed to be allies of such people and regimes which have no ethics or morals, but they feel that as present stage justifies such an unholy alliance and such a nation. The Arab newspapers owned by the Gulf states, which are published in Europe or in the Arab region, have all been called as President Bush and his acolytes to launch aggression on Iraq and its besieged people, said the daily. This campaign looks similar to that which preceded the Gulf war in January 1991 and paved the ground for yet another crime perpetrated by these regimes, in collusion with the three colonial powers, the paper added. The paper said that these regimes do not feel ashamed of their evil doing and, therefore, they should not blame anybody for exposing their actions.

AL DUSTOUR commented on the meeting in Damascus by the Arab countries involved in the negotiations with Israel, and said that the meeting is of vital importance at this juncture, in view of the developments in the region and in the wake of Israel's intransigent stand vis-a-vis the settlements question and the task of unifying their stand at the coming Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington, said the paper. It said Israel's stand and the recent developments in the region have no doubt complicated matters and made the Washington parity less likely to achieve any progress. This time, the Arab countries are facing Israel backed by the U.S. loan guarantees and continued American support for the Jewish state's settlement programmes, considered as an obstacle to peace before, said the daily. For this reason, said the paper, the mission of the Arab ministers meeting in Damascus today is more difficult than ever before and they require all the skill and efforts they can pool together in order to come out with a joint formula, capable of dealing with these many odds favouring their common enemy.

Power play: Moving Jews into Jerusalem Arab quarters

By Abraham Rabinovich

The Jerusalem Post

JEWISH settlers moving into the Muslim Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City this week claimed that they were promoting co-existence and strengthening Israel's political hold on Jerusalem.

They were, in fact, making a mockery of co-existence and undermining Israel's claim to sovereignty in the united city.

After the 1967 war, when the government decided to restore the Jewish Quarter, it evacuated 5,000 Arabs living in the area. Although Jews had lived in the quarter since the Middle Ages, the landlords of most of the buildings were Arabs.

Despite appeals to the courts by Arab residents who cited ownership going back centuries, none was permitted to stay. Even a liberal like Mayor Teddy Kollek supported the harsh evacuation, in order to avoid communal tensions.

Given the prevailing political situation, this separation policy has proven itself. Even at the height of intifada residents of the Jewish Quarter were able to feel relatively secure.

The policy proved one-sided, however, when a decade ago Jewish groups began secretly purchasing property in the Muslim Quarter, property which for the most part had been occupied by Jews in the past.

This movement was greatly accelerated in recent years by former housing minister Ariel

Sharon who himself acquired a home in the Muslim Quarter and helped to arrange the purchase of others. While some of the funding came from contributors abroad, public money was also involved.

There are now some 200 Jewish residents in the Muslim Quarter, along with some 400 yeshiva students. Settler leaders say more apartments will be occupied in the near future.

These moves have little demographic significance — there are some 14,000 Arabs living in the quarter — but considerable political implications.

World acceptance of Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem will ultimately depend not only on legal arguments, but on Israel's perceived ability to deal fairly with the Arabs, who constitute 28 per cent of the city's population and who have lived here more than a millennium.

The expropriation by previous Labour governments of more than a third of the land in East Jerusalem in order to build Jewish neighbourhoods for some 150,000 residents is defensible on geo-political grounds — Israel shoring up its strategic presence to ensure that the kind of war fought in Jerusalem's streets twice in one generation will not be fought again.

However, moving a few score Jewish families into the Muslim Quarter, St. John's Hospice in the Christian Quarter, and Silwan just outside the walls does not

add a whit to Israel's strategic presence in Jerusalem. On the contrary, it dangerously detracts from it. It is provocative and insidious.

It is not an act of "co-existence" but an act of brute power, even if the buildings are legally purchased from Arabs for good money.

If co-existence were indeed the motive of the Muslim Quarter settlers and their supporters, they would advocate that East Jerusalem Arabs live alongside Jews in the Jewish Quarter and in West Jerusalem neighbourhoods like Baka or Katamon where Arabs lived before 1948.

As long as East Jerusalem's Arabs cannot do that, they are as much entitled as the Jews, or the Armenians, to have their own inviolate quarters, where they can relax among their own kind, listen to their own music coming out the windows and speak ill, if they choose, of the Jews. Security matters can safely be left to the security forces.

To move Jews into the Arab quarters amounts to showing the Jewish presence down the Arab's throats for no good political or security reason, but simply because we have the power. It is doing to them what we do not permit them to do to us.

It is morally corrupt and politically destructive — a standing grievance for the Arabs, and viewed by the world as an act of contempt by Israel towards Jerusalem's Arabs.

The encouragement of Jewish settlement in the Muslim Quarter by the previous Likud government, brought its entire settlement philosophy into question and demeaned us all.

The attempt by the present government to undo, or at least contain, this Messianic-nationalist folly is a fresh breeze, suggesting that rationality and a decent respect for the opinions of other peoples has returned to the power centre in Jerusalem.

One day, hopefully, Jews and Arabs in the Old City will once again live alongside each other as they did in some measure for centuries, and as hundreds of Israeli Arabs and their Jewish neighbours presently do in West Jerusalem — with mutual respect and in friendship.

That day has not yet come.

The draft press law: A giant step backwards

By Ayman Al Safadi

it wants to pass to it.

If you add to this the failure of media organisations in Jordan to shake the old unquestioning mentality off their systems, refusal to invest in their reporters, and unwillingness to transform their work approach from mere reporting of news to the creation of issues, all hopes for the development of an effective media in the country are lost.

Also thanks to the deputies, the press will be banned from reporting any news that might conflict with "national responsibility", and the "Arab and Muslim values." The government could not have asked for a more powerful weapon for controlling the press. It could, for instance, invoke these vague definitions whenever it pleases to ban the coverage of public protests or the criticism of some archaic tribal tradition.

By any serious standard, the draft law makes a mockery of freedom of expression in Jordan. Media organisations, though, seem to have failed, or chosen to fail to appreciate the enormity of the situation. Their silence against such an encroachment upon their right is as "appalling as the deputies' role in oppressing it."

The press must devote all its resources to fighting the new law. It should launch a major campaign against it, exposing to the public the grave impact it would have on the freedom of expression and pressuring deputies into reconsidering their attitudes.

Governments, which prefer to conduct their business behind closed doors, know very

well that a free press is their worst nightmare.

They never stop trying to prevent the press from doing its job. A free press vehemently fights off the pressure. And hence is the adversarial relationship that exists between the media and governments in all pluralistic societies.

It is no secret the media in Jordan has had a very cozy relationship with the government, appeasing it, failing to challenge its actions and relying on it as the major source of news. Other social, religious and political taboos further weakened its performance.

All this should change now. Society is moving towards democracy and the press cannot be left, or stay, behind. Democracy cannot function without a free press.

The executive branch of government has for long stifled the freedom of the press in Jordan. The legislative body is becoming yet another formidable obstacle to obtaining this freedom.

The right of the press to free expression and the right of the public to know of the actions of the government should thus be protected against the whims and preferences of public and elected officials.

The press must vigorously fight to lodge that protection in a constitutional provision that no branch of government can usurp. An amendment to the constitution might have to read that Parliament "shall not abridge" the freedom of the press.

The writer is on the staff of the Jordan Times.

Bush tries to turn foreign policy expertise to domestic gain

By Rich Miller

HOUSTON — President George Bush is trying to convince anxious U.S. voters that his foreign policy expertise will translate into more jobs at home, but critics said he has a hard sell ahead of him.

They charge Mr. Bush has been slow to protect U.S. economic interests abroad and to shift the focus of foreign policy away from fighting communism to economics now that the cold war is over.

"American foreign policy is at sea," said C. Fred Bergsten, director of the Institute for International Economics think tank in Washington. "With the collapse of communism... the principles that guided past behaviour are gone."

Trailing Democratic challenger Bill Clinton badly in the opinion polls, Mr. Bush needs to win back voters who believe that he has paid too much attention to foreign affairs and not enough to solving America's domestic economic woes.

Administration officials argued at the Republican Party convention here that Mr. Bush deserves credit for managing the end of the cold war and can help America take advantage of the economic opportunities that will result in a second term.

"Thanks to George Bush, we are no longer in an era of missiles, but rather of markets," U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills told reporters.

She said the president recognises the importance of exports to U.S. economic growth and is working hard to increase them through more open markets over-

seas.

"The president understands that trade is a jobs machine," she said.

That's why Mr. Bush has endorsed a "free trade" agreement with Mexico and Canada despite concern within the Republican Party that the deal will cost some Americans their jobs and Mr. Bush votes in the November election, she said.

Mr. Clinton has endorsed the pact in principle but has expressed concern about its potential impact on some American workers and on U.S. environmental standards.

Even supporters of the pact acknowledge that it won't create much more than a couple of a hundred thousand new U.S. jobs. The impact will be limited because the Mexican economy is only one twentieth the size of that of the United States.

The United States would have much more to gain from an international agreement to liberalise world trade in goods and services. But talks on such a pact have dragged on for years, largely because of a dispute between the United States and Europe on farm trade.

Ms. Hills said the administration stands ready to strike a multilateral trade agreement even during the heat of the presidential election campaign, but she made clear that it was up to Europe to come up with a proposal to break the deadlock.

Analysts said that means that an agreement is unlikely before the election, Ms. Hill's comments notwithstanding. — Reuters

LETTERS

Wrong information

To the Editor:

In the article entitled "Amman becomes Mideast hub for Société Générale," (Jordan Times, August 19, 1992), by Mr. Samir Shafiq, the paragraph before last states that "The BNP employee also told the Jordan Times that she became the representative of the office after a 1990 reorganisation which cancelled the presence of the French representative in Amman."

This statement is not accurate. I never told Mr. Shafiq that I have become the representative of the office after a 1990 reorganisation and I am not. I am in charge of the office during the absence of the representative.

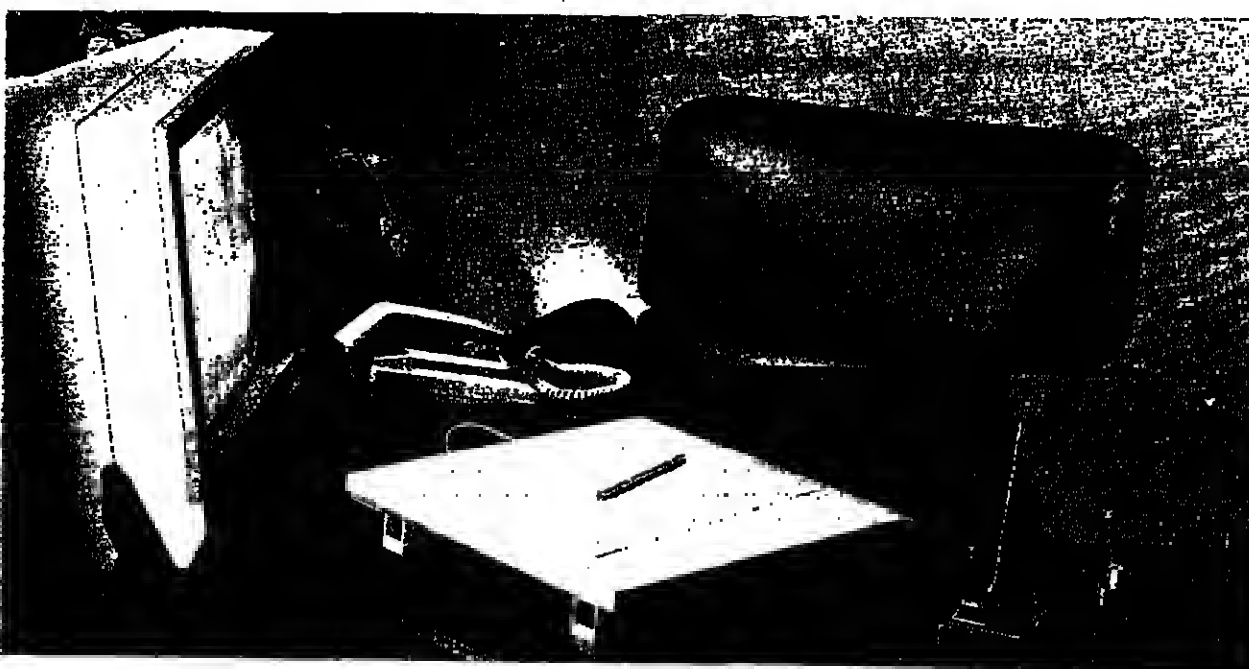
Second, I never said that "a 1990 reorganisation cancelled the presence of the French representative in Amman."

I shall, therefore, be grateful if you will kindly publish the above corrections in your next issue.

Mona Dallal,
P.O. Box 36287,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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Weekender

Aug. 20, 1992

Published Every Thursday

Aunty Beeb still battling to rule the waves

By Max De Lotbiniere
LONDON — For former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, it was the only source of news during his three long days of captivity in last August's attempted coup. Solidarity leaders listened to it secretly during the tense months of military rule in Poland in 1981. Over the years, dissidents around the globe have depended on it to give them a true, unbiased picture of what was going on in the world. So too have ordinary people. Fiddle with the tuner on any short or medium wave radio until you hear the distinctive chimes of London's Big Ben's clock tower, and you know you have found the BBC's World Service.

Broadcast in 35 languages, the BBC's International News Service reaches around 120 million listeners from Tokyo to Timbuktu. It started life broadcasting to the British Empire in English. In the late 1930s, Arabic language programmes were added at the request of a British government worried about the impact of propaganda broadcasts from Europe's fascist governments. But it was after World War II and under the cloud of ideological conflict between East and West that the World Service sought to establish its editorial independence.

For John Tusa, managing director of the international news service, it is that very independence that guarantees the World Service a bright future. While other less impartial services struggle to carve themselves a new role in the post-Cold War world, he says, "Aunty Beeb's" overseas service can be confident of keeping its listeners who tune in to hear objective reporting.

Mr. Tusa, 56, has headed

the World Service for the past six years, during some of the most sweeping changes in world politics. He first worked for the service as a reporter back in the 1960s, before going on to become a freelance radio and television journalist. This will be his final year in the job, but also the service's 60th anniversary. It was time for Mr. Tusa to take personal stock of his experiences, recently published in a book of reminiscences and observations called *A World In Your Ear*.

Not all Mr. Tusa's memories are happy ones. As head of the service's news, current affairs and entertainment programmes, he has often found himself on the receiving end of criticism from disgruntled listeners. That, he says philosophically, is "good for the soul."

Nor have things always been easy within the corridors of Bush House, the imposing neo-classical headquarters of the service in central London. While some foreign countries have sought to keep the service out by jamming its signal, the real threat over the past 20 years has come from successive British governments, unsure about financing a radio station they couldn't hear. "The 1970s and early 1980s were a very sticky period for the World Service, when it seemed not a year went by without an inquiry or a round of cuts," recalls Mr. Tusa.

In 1984, the Thatcher government investigated the World Service's financial situation and drew up recommendations for a radical overhaul. The service, with Mr. Tusa at its head, two years later, responded with what he describes as a managerial revolution that has so far reversed government



As managing director of the BBC's international news service, John Tusa has finetuned operations to meet new challenges

skepticism about funding. Mr. Tusa believes the experience had two consequences. "First, we managed to use our money better, and second, it demonstrated that we could play the managerial game according to the rules that government set," he said. "The result was that the government became more relaxed about our general financial worthiness, and two years ago (when the last three-yearly grant was awarded) we got a 7 per cent increase, which was one kind of vote of confidence."

While some critics still find it hard to accept that a broadcasting service which is entirely state-funded — this year to the tune of £166.3 million (\$316 million) — can be independent, Mr. Tusa is adamant that this principle is sacred. He argues that the World Service stands out among international broadcasting organisations because it works according to a unique principle: "What we are broadcasting is information for the benefit of the citizen," he says. "And it is up to the citizen to use it as he or she thinks fit. We are not broadcasting a government message and we are not fighting an ideological war."

Rebroadcasting
"I have always believed," continues Mr. Tusa, "that this principle of broadcasting is as effective in a situation of ideological conflict as in a situation of non-ideological conflict. The advantage of it is that you have a consistent view of broadcasting whatever the circumstances on the ground. "During the attempted Soviet coup last August, Mr. Gorbachev and his few remaining staff had to rig up an old short wave radio to tune into what the former Soviet leader later described as his only source of independent news. Today, a year later, Mr. Gorbachev, at home in Moscow, can listen in on a normal FM or medium wave radio. This is possible thanks to a broadcasting strategy developed by the World Service during the past five years and which looks set to revolutionise the way listeners everywhere get their news."

By the late 1980s, Mr. Tusa and his staff had become

convinced that the use of short wave radios was set to decline in most parts of the world, because the reception quality could not compete with popular, interference-free, local FM radio. To meet this challenge, they developed the concept of rebroadcasting: Local radio stations would receive World Service programmes by satellite and rebroadcast them via their own transmitters. According to Greville Havenhand, assistant head of the department responsible for rebroadcasting, more than 500 stations worldwide pass on the World Service to local listeners. They range from a U.S. cable network which takes programmes around the clock to a Moscow rock station, which uses just a couple of hours a day. Mr. Havenhand is just back from Albania where he signed a deal with the government to start rebroadcasting there.

While rebroadcasting has been expanding steadily in Latin America and the Caribbean — places where the World Service short wave signals have never been strong — the fastest growth has been in the former Communist countries of Eastern Europe. In his book, Mr. Tusa recalls how many of the present heads of government in these countries were themselves World Service listeners, often clandestinely, when they were dissidents or opponents of Communist regimes. Russian radio now rebroadcasts World Service programmes across its network and there are similar agreements with local stations in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

In spite of the growth, there are few profits to be made by the BBC, at least in the new democracies. "We do charge a registration fee, if they can pay, but if it's a very small station, we don't," said Mr. Havenhand. "Even in the U.S. there is very little money in radio and the cost of delivery is such that even if we charged stations, there wouldn't be a big commercial future in it."

But among international broadcasters, it seems, rebroadcasting has become a cut-throat business. In Europe, the World Service's main competition comes from the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, both funded by the U.S. government. But although these stations have bigger budgets, staff at the World Service tout the quality of their service. Mr. Havenhand points out that in Poland the World Service has kept a 9 per cent share of the audience, a bigger cut, he says, than that enjoyed by even the BBC's national networks in the U.K. This is in spite of having lost its rebroadcasting arrangement with the national Polish network to a major U.S.-funded competitor.

For Mr. Tusa, the BBC

World Service's success can be chalked up to its rebroadcasting strategy, but even more importantly to its principle of independent broadcasting. "Some of our competitors didn't have that or had a different one," he said. "Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty took an ideological view of broadcasting and when ideology ended they had to redefine what they were doing, rather fast. Whether that has been wholly convincing remains to be seen."

But rebroadcasting is only an interim strategy. The future is in satellite, say technical experts. They say the technology will soon be available to allow individuals to receive radio by satellite, cheaply and with perfect clarity, anywhere in the world. Then, the short-wave radio will well and truly become a museum piece.

In 1991, the BBC World Service launched its satellite television service. Unlike the radio network, this is an entirely commercial venture, the U.K. government having taken the decision in the mid-1980s not to help fund it. The success of an international satellite TV news service has been proved by the U.S.-based CNN. But the World Service's version has had to grow piecemeal, first beaming to Europe and now carried by the Asia region channel Star TV. Mr. Tusa believes the demand for BBC television news coverage will grow because it carries with it the tried and tested reputation of its sister radio service.

In his office at Bush House, Mr. Tusa's pride in what the World Service has achieved is obvious. As he prepares to leave the service he is confident, he says, that its often rocky relationship with the British government is on a firmer footing than ever before. But he remains keenly aware, he says, that the service will always be vulnerable to the whims of politicians as long as it continues to be dependent on state funding.

Mr. Tusa notes that the World Service's commitment to broadcasting is one which should transcend party politics and ideologies. "We broadcast in good times and bad," he writes in his book. "Broadcasting is a long-term contract with the listener — it cannot be turned on and off like a tap, especially in the international arena."

In the flesh, with his casual dress and straightforward style of speaking, Mr. Tusa is even more convincing. "Because international broadcasters have been so gummed up with the ideological Cold War, they haven't been able to see what it's all about," he said. "It (the World Service) is another class of radio, covering one particular kind of information which is international news about the world. I rather think the demand for that is going to go up rather than down" — World News Link.

BOOK REVIEW

A maze made of soft, shaded paths

In *The Eye Of The Sun*
By Ahdaf Soueif
Bloomsbury £16.99

AHDAF SOUEIF's second novel can in many ways be seen as "portrait of the artist as a young woman" — an Egyptian woman called Asya. But where Stephen Dedalus had to free himself from the bonds of religion, homeland and family before he could present his purified self at the altar of art, Asya has different shackles. She grows up in a bourgeois, intellectual and secular milieu, and is immersed from a young age in Western culture through reading and travel. In common with her class in the confident, pre-fundamentalist Egypt of the 1960s, she appears to have no problems with God (despite the lengthy quotations from the Koran in the novel, which are there only for artistic, if somewhat cumbersome, juxtaposition). Nor does she have a problem with her loving and all-the-way supportive family.

Indeed, as a teenager growing up in a society which frowned upon pre-marital sex for women, the restraints on her were so relaxed that she managed regular private assignments for years with her intended, not to mention co-habitation with him in Beirut and London during summer holidays.

As for her homeland, Asya grows up in the heyday of Nasser's era, only to see her idol fall from grace in 1967, following Egypt's defeat in the war with Israel. The war is documented in the novel (and so is the later one of 1973) through the detached citation of military communiqués. Why the author chooses to interrupt the narrative in this bizarre way is not clear. Politics, in any case, remains peripheral to the novel. There are attempts to make the public and the private converge, as when Asya's uncle's car is crushed during the build-up to the war between two recklessly-driven army trucks — a premonition of the fate that the whole nation is to suffer.

But it stops at this level — the turbulent politics of the Middle East never seriously penetrate the texture of the narrative, beyond the surface crust of record-keeping. In *The Eye Of The Sun* is essentially a private novel, and it is in her painstaking and unremitting probing of her heroine's feelings that Ms. Soueif's creative passion shows itself at its best.

Asya's quarrel, then, is not with religion, family or homeland. Instead it is from love — a great love so powerful it stifled her individuality and her womanhood — that she struggles to free herself. After a passionate love story which lasted throughout her undergraduate years, Asya, beautiful, intelligent, successful and well-placed in society, marries Saif, a charming man with a brilliant career and every bit her match, though eight years her senior.

But on her wedding night Saif, always loving and considerate, gives up his attempts to deflower her when the pain proves too much for her to bear. Readers will be pushed to accept that the suffering and heartache of the next 500-odd pages all germinated in that one moment on that particular night. Every time Saif tried later, Asya, whose body actually ached with desire for him, coiled over herself with fear of pain. He finally gives up and she remains a virgin wife.

The love, the loyalty and the mutual devotion continue. But two years later, the circumstances of their respective careers force them to live apart; his business if based in the Middle East, while she comes to Britain to study for her PhD — they meet only occasionally for holidays. Increasingly frustrated at her loneliness and her unfulfilled womanhood, Asya indulges in a sexually gratifying relationship with an English student at her university. Saif cannot live with the idea, so they part, still in love.

Now this is not as trite as the summary may make it sound. Ms. Soueif's analysis of her heroine's consciousness is remarkable. Consider, for example, her exploration of Asya's sexuality:

"She whispers, 'no,' but his fingers continue their slow, gentle, teasing search. She had never known there was so much scope for searching down there: a miniature maze where you could wander for a lifetime, a maze of soft, shaded paths and a hundred hiding-places all longing to be discovered. She wants him to go on for ever, for ever — but there, there is the centre, there is where she most wants him to be..."

This may not raise anything but a chuckle among Ms. Soueif's English readership; but it would raise hell if it were written in Arabic, the writer's native tongue. Ms. Soueif differs from, for instance, Nawal El Saadawi, who writes thesis-novels to illustrate the plight of the unemancipated Middle Eastern woman. Ms. Soueif has written an aesthetic novel whose central preoccupation happens to be the feminine nature.

In *The Eye Of The Sun* is a complex and rich novel, but it has one serious flaw: the sexual estrangement of the loving couple as it is shown defies credibility — how can a couple so sophisticated, so articulate, so enamoured and so respectful of each other fail to sort out such a problem for seven married years? On the other hand, there seems to be a symbolic dimension to the dilemma. In their respective portrayals, Saif appears to stand for reason; for a cool and definitive outlook on things, whereas Asya seems to stand for passion; the unbridled urge to know, to discover, to experience and err and be human. Asya's final rejection of Saif may thus be seen as a celebration of the ultimate triumph of the life force over rational thought. But we cannot say that the whole sexual situation is symbolic of the impotence of reason before passion. It was Asya's obsessive fear, not Saif's impotence, that caused the trouble. The realistic and symbolic levels do not converge.

Part of the responsibility for this doubtless rests with Ms. Soueif's apparent unwillingness to allow us a genuine look into Saif's mind. We are given a few direct glimpses, but these amount to some 20 pages in italics out of a total of nearly 800. Ms. Soueif has perhaps allowed herself to identify disproportionately with her heroine — a hazard always present in fiction deeply anchored in autobiography.

The novel is a remarkable achievement nevertheless. After two works in this strain, the cathartic effect of recollective and reconstructive writing must be near complete — Ms. Soueif's fiction can now only move further and further away from the contemplation of the self. One looks forward to her next, post-emancipatory novel — *The Independent*.

Rasheed Al Enany

China lifts ban on controversial films

PEKING (R) — China has lifted a ban on showing two films by controversial director Zhang Yimou that have impressed viewers and critics around the world, the Peking Review said in a recent issue. In the northern port city of Tianjin, audiences will be able to see Zhang's *Judou*, nominated for an Oscar last year, the city's *Tonight's News* said.

The Peking Review said showings of *Judou* and *Raise The Red Lantern*, an Oscar nominee this year, would begin nationwide in September as a sign of reforms and liberalisation in the arts.

"The decision to allow domestic release of the films

is considered not only a triumph for Zhang, but also a sign of a more flexible policy towards artists and their works," the magazine said.

China's cultural bosses have recently been easing controls in conjunction with paramount leader Deng Xiaoping's push for economic reforms.

The Ministry of Culture published a list of 10 reform measures in the official People's Daily Sunday, saying "We in the cultural sphere must create an atmosphere that supports, protects, promotes and deepens reforms."

On Thursday the Press and Publications Administration

announced a loosening of censorship controls, allowing publishers freedom to put pin-up bikini-clad beauties on calendars and publish a wide range of books without prior permission.

Much of the new freedom has to do with making. The heavy-handed politically correct films beloved of Communist Party leaders have been banned at the box office.

"We must abandon the old thinking that had a simplistic, one-sided and excessive emphasis on the political education function of film," Wu Mengchen, general manager of the Shanghai Film Distribution Co., told that city's Wen Hui Bao.



Abu Khalaf

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JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday Aug. 20

8:30 The Simpsons

The atomic plant baseball team is proclaimed champion thanks to Homer Simpson.

9:10 N.B.A. Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The World's Oldest Living Bride's Maid

A love story between a famous lady-lawyer and her male secretary.

Friday, Aug. 21

8:30 Golden Girls

Dorothy's ex-husband, Stanley, invents a machine that peels baked potatoes

9:10 Root Into Europe

Henry Root visits Barcelona, but finds it different from his expectations.

10:00 News in English

10:20 El C.I.D.

A new detective series starring Alfred Molina and John Bird.

11:15 The Powers That Be

Starring: John Forsythe and Holland Taylor

A new political comedy about senators, congressmen, and their families.

Saturday, Aug. 22

8:30 Super Bloopers and New Practical Jokes

9:10 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Picture Perfect

An American photographer working in Paris is involved in a spying case.

Starring: Mark Hamill and Katherine Wilkening

Sunday Aug. 23

8:30 Wings

Can Brian run the airlines

during his brother, Joe's, absence?

9:10 Documentary Inside The Reef

10:00 News in English

10:20 Midnight Caller

A spy movie about the dangerous and deadly Sleeping Agents

Starring: Richard Bradford and Richard Jenkins

Monday Aug. 24

8:30 Close To Home

Brian's dream of becoming a vet is destroyed when he fails the biology exam.

9:10 Gone To The Dogs

A drama about a rich married couple and a greyhound trainer.

Starring: Alison Steedman and Jim Broadbent.

10:00 News in English

10:20 The Strauss Family

Tuesday Aug. 25

8:30 Acropolis Now

8:55 Mr. Bean

9:10 TEXS

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Little Nikita

A spy movie about the dangerous and deadly Sleeping Agents

Starring: Richard Bradford and Richard Jenkins

Wednesday Aug. 26

8:30 Saved By The Bell

Screech helps Kelly score an A in her science exam.

9:00 Wednesday Forum

James bets his car in a billiard game.

9:30 Man Of The People

10:00 News in English

10:20 Stay The Night

The true story of a mother's determination to get even with a woman who put her son in prison... for life.

The Hollow Men

By E. Yaghi

**We are the hollow men
We are the hollow men
Leaning together
Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!**
(T.S. Eliot)

Somewhere near the Twilight Zone lived the Hollow Men. Through a process of evolution they became mutant beings with heads filled with straw, eyes that did not see, ears that did not hear, tongues that did not speak and hearts that did not love or have compassion. Each Hollow Man was only concerned with himself and was not worried about the affairs of his neighbour or fellow countryman. These mutants lived in a desert where nothing much grew but rock and rivers of sand which emitted a dull glow under the rays of the fading stars. The Hollow People were not aware of their emptiness for long ago they became indifferent to the world around them and so were even estranged from themselves. As environment molds its inhabitants so do inhabitants shape their environment, therefore it is comprehensible that the Hollow Men's habitat was as dry and barren as they were.

The process of such evolution began long ago when the first baby cried out in hunger and no one came to its aid, when the first child died from war because no one cared to protect its evil, when the first woman languished by the road because no one attended to her diseased infant and when the old man shivered in the snow because no one chose to keep him warm. It was then that the Hollow Men began to grow empty inside, have straw for minds and clay for hearts. Their eyelids began to droop because they had no need for eyes since they didn't really want to see anything.

Their tongues thickened because they didn't care to speak to each other or speak out against the evils of their time, and their ears grew smaller and smaller because they didn't listen to the cries of agony and hunger that moaned around them in a sea of misery. Each Hollow Man would say to his straw mind, "As long as it's not me, what do I care anyway!" And while speaking, the lump of clay that was replacing his heart grew larger.

A child in school was heard to once ask his teacher: "Sir, please tell me why grass is green and where does the rainbow come from and where does the sun go when it sets?"

Instead of trying to satisfy the child's curiosity, the teacher's face turned purple and he exploded with rage. "What, how dare you ask such irrelevant questions and waste the time of the whole class!" He thus went to the boy, grabbed him by his collar and beat him with a thick ruler. The child never asked such questions again and grew up dull and boring, a prodigy of his Hollow People and instead of a brain, his head became stuffed with straw so he

wouldn't have to think ever again.

Soon, there were few poor around because they had mostly died from want. Many tried to survive by eating wilted roots and shriveled leaves and drank from muddy puddles of water. There were few elderly around too, because no one wanted to bother with them and they just faded away into nothing like passing winds. Only the strongest children survived because their mothers had no time to love and care for them anyway. Any sick child was abandoned because there was no room for concern near the Twilight Zone.

With time, the mutants began to look like moles and the sun bothered what little eyes they had left and their noses grew longer to balance the shrinkage of ears and eyes. Prayers were forgotten to be uttered to the Great Maker because no one possessed a pious heart or sought the inspiration of nature or expressed the feeling of gratitude. A long shadow hung over the Hollow Men as a vulture hangs over its prey. The only river that ran through Twilight Land was stagnant and provided little nourishment for the surrounding inhabitants. But, one day a stranger came from a far away land and when he saw the odd looking inhabitants he gasped and said: "My God, what are these creatures?"

He soon discovered that they were empty, useless, had straw for minds, hearts of clay and couldn't care less about the world around them. Because the stranger had a real heart and mind, he could reason and perceive, understand and commiserate with the sufferings of others. He brought new words to their language, new thoughts to their heads and instilled in their hearts a shaft of compassion. It was as if a miracle had happened. Slowly, the straw began to move and think, the ears began to hear the winds of hope, the eyes began to focus on the beauties of their world, and at last, the thick tongues loosened. The Hollow Men's eyes grew larger, their ears bigger and their hearts opened and they forgot to think only of themselves and began to ask about each other and care began to spring into their thoughts. Once more, children started laughing and playing, (for they had almost forgotten) and started asking impossible questions again and people with white hair began to appear. Hope sparkled in the eyes of the weary and the phantom of tomorrow became a magic word no longer whispered by the desert winds. Little green sprouts sprang up in the desert and soon it began to bloom and the once stagnant river swelled to a fertile sea. The stranger who had initiated the miracle gradually disappeared, but some say that he turned into a shining star that twinkles especially bright near the Twilight Zone.

Finally, prayers were once again adulated in praise of the Lord and the Hollow Men didn't seem so hollow anymore. Once again, life held the promise of the future and the clay that had formed like rock in the Hollow Men's hearts began to dissolve.

No, we don't take roubles, but...

By Diane Stormont
Reuters

PUSAN, South Korea — The young British sailor on his first visit to this South Korean port was experiencing an acute case of culture shock.

Shopkeepers greeted him in Russian. A restaurant owner handed him a menu in Cyrillic script and seemed put out when he couldn't read it.

Signs in Russian were everywhere. Even the England shoes store had translated its name for the benefit of former East Bloc citizens.

Not too long ago Russians were public enemy number two, second only to North Koreans, in the eyes of staunchly anti-Communist South Korea.

But the hostility is now history. South Korea has become a bargain basement for citizens of the former Communist state since the two countries buried the hatchet in 1990 and established diplomatic relations.

This south east port became the nation's shop win-

dow when direct shipping links were established between Pusan and Vladivostok last year.

"The Russians spend more money here than the Americans now, you get them in here spending \$400, \$500 each," said the proprietor of a custom-made shoe shop on Texas Street in the heart of Pusan's red light district.

Handwritten Russian signs began sprouting about a year ago when consumer-hungry Russians started browsing along Texas Street, said the barman at the Seaman's Club on Pier Three.

By February, permanent shop signs had been translated into Russian and neon lights in Cyrillic began to glow invitingly alongside those in the Korean script, Hangeul.

Business is brisk.

Lines of second-hand Korean trucks, buses and vans line the wharves awaiting a port call from the next Russian ship.

The Alla Emporium, stocking everything from children's paint boxes to

cheap, unfamiliar brand-name stereos, reported a roaring trade in second-hand refrigerators and washing machines.

There is no shortage of supply. South Koreans have discarded more than 9.31 million household appliances weighing 176,665 tonnes so far this year, government figures indicate.

Most of the buyers on Texas Street are Russian sailors who pause only long enough to invest in expanding wheeled luggage before methodically working both sides of the street, bagging hard for blue jeans and fake brand-name running shoes.

But they represent only the tip of the trade passing through Pusan, most of it carried out by barter.

The shopkeepers of Pusan will not take roubles, and exchanging roubles for dollars back home is expensive.

South Korean willingness to barter with cash-strapped Russians is the main impetus for the trade, said a Russian resident of Seoul.

If they had the cash they

would buy goods cheaper in Japan.

At the lowest end, Russian seafarers trade cans of crab meat, red caviar, vodka and cigarettes for dollars to convert into T-shirts, shoes and trousers.

At the other end of the scale, South Korea's largest trading conglomerates are exchanging personal computers for aluminium, in the case of Lucky-Goldstar, or electrical goods for wood pulp in the case of Ssangyong.

Lucky said last month the first shipment of a \$500,000 consignment of personal computers had left for Russia in April in exchange for 20,000 tonnes of aluminium. Ssangyong has struck a deal to exchange \$2 million worth of shoes and home appliances for Russian wood pulp.

But for the British sailor, one of about 2,000 on a Royal Navy goodwill visit to Pusan last week, there was one consolation.

The girls in Pusan were more interested in cash than tinned crab meat.

Japan megaprojects are stuff of dreams

By Vibeke Laroi
Reuters

TOKYO — Why not melt the snows of the Himalayas and use the water to make the Sahara Desert bloom? How about a second Panama Canal or a Silk Road expressway? These are just some of the megaprojects, the kind engineers dream about, which have been proposed by a Japanese group supported by some of the country's top blue-chip firms.

The private Global Infrastructure Fund (GIF) Research Foundation has come up with schemes so massive they would require the resources and technology of many nations.

Environmentalists call the projects crazy. The chairman of GIF Research Foundation is Eishiro Saito, former chief of Japan's biggest business group, Keidanren.

Mr. Saito calls GIF his "pet project". He told Britain's Prince Philip, president of the World Wide Fund for Nature, of his dream to melt Himalayan snow and ice to form a huge reservoir which could be used, for example, to green the African desert.

The colour of his (the prince's) face changed and he

became upset," recalled one Keidanren official present at the meeting. "He kept repeating 'hopeless, hopeless'."

Mr. Saito made clear he was looking far into the future, perhaps 200 to 300 years.

"The prince told us the human species might not even last 50 years," the Keidanren official said.

Each megaproject is expected to cost at least \$10 billion. GIF would like to be able to use about \$500 billion that is currently spent on arms to carry out about 50 separate schemes which would be worldwide monuments to peace.

In an interview, Norio Yamamoto, managing director of GIF Research Foundation Japan, outlined some of the schemes:

— A modern Silk Road superhighway stretching from Peking to Paris.

— Damsing the Tsangpo River between China and the Indian province of Assam to make it flow into India across the Himalayas.

— Two Middle East peace pipelines to distribute water, one 4,000 kilometres long from Turkey to Muscat, Oman and one 2,000 kilometres long from Syria to Jordan and Mecca.

Mr. Yamamoto said the main obstacles to these proposals were no longer technical but political.

"Technological hurdles are no longer a real problem, but now we face the problems of how to get funds, a political consensus, and to pay due importance to environmental concerns," he said.

The Middle East pipelines for example would be a political minefield. "If there were no borders between the countries, then everyone would probably consider it," Mr. Yamamoto said.

One a little closer to realisation is building a second canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific in Panama. A trilateral committee, consisting of Japan, the United States and Panama, was set up in September 1985 to study its feasibility.

"Since then, however, Panamanian President (Manuel Noriega) has been arrested. Panama is not at all enthusiastic now and the U.S. is not very enthusiastic either," Mr. Yamamoto said sadly.

"Japan allocated budget resources, but couldn't use them."

Some ideas have gone sour, such as building a dam across the Bering Strait, between Alaska and Russia, to

control currents from the Arctic Ocean to alter atmospheric conditions.

"The idea was to warm Siberia, but, if the tundra melted, the environment would be drastically altered," Mr. Yamamoto said.

"Russia isn't interested anymore," he added. The GIF Research Foundation has only three billion yen (\$23 million) funding from private business and individuals.

A separate fund would be needed to carry out the projects.

Japan's Ministry of Construction has also set up its own global superproject committee to study such schemes.

Environmentalists dismiss such megaprojects as "technofix", designed to bring good business to Japanese construction firms but which would be a disaster to the environment.

"Some of the projects are so wacky, so off-the-wall," said Jonathan Holliman at environmental group Friends Of The Earth. "It's the same old thing — promotion of large-scale infrastructure projects that Japan thinks it has the capacity to do and wants to contribute to the world."

"I doubt that would solve environmental problems."

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Aug. 20

1526 — Forces under Italian Cardinal Pompeo Colonna plunder Rome, forcing Pope Clement VII to take refuge in Castle of St. Angelo

1641 — Britain signs treaty of pacification with Scotland.

1791 — Alaska is discovered by Danish navigator Vitus Jonas Bering.

1831 — French army enters Belgium, forcing Dutch forces to withdraw.

1886 — Successful military coup is launched in Sofia, Bulgaria.

1908 — Belgium's King Leopold II hands over the Congo to Belgian government.

1918 — British offensive on Western Front opens in World War I.

1946 — Allied Control Commission dissolves Wehrmacht in Germany.

1953 — France deposes Sultan of Morocco.

1955 — Anti-French riots break out in Morocco.

1968 — Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations invade Czechoslovakia to crush Alexander Dubcek's liberal regime.

1971 — Leaders of Libya, Egypt and Syria sign constitution designed to bind their countries in Federation of Arab Republics.

1975 — U.S. spaceship bound for planet Mars is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

1976 — South Africa announces new concession, giving urban blacks full title to land on which they live.

1987 — Treasure hunters salvaging objects from doomed luxury liner Titanic scoop up satchel containing a fortune in jewels.

1988 — Thousands of Burmese rally in Rangoon to pressure the government to restore multi-party democracy.

1989 — Soviet Union reveals deadliest weapon in its air force arsenal — needle-nosed bomber which NATO calls the Blackjack.

1990 — Gang of convicts from Siberian labour camp overpower guards aboard Aeroflot passenger flight, hijack plane to Pakistan and seek political asylum.

1991 — Three people are killed in Moscow when coup opponents trap a military vehicle beneath an underpass and soldiers inside open fire.

Friday, Aug. 21

1673 — Britain's Prince Rupert is defeated off Texel, marking end of British efforts to land troops in Holland, freeing Dutch coast from blockade.

1689 — Louis of Baden defeats Turks, takes Niss and occupies Bulgaria.

1808 — British forces defeat French at Vimiero, Portugal.

1911 — German Emperor William II speaks at Hamburg on Germany's "place in the sun," which he says its navy will secure for her.

1917 — German forces attack Russians on Riga, Latvia, front in World War I.

1940 — Leon Trotsky, Communist revolutionary, dies of wounds inflicted by assassin in Mexico City.

1943 — It is disclosed that Japan has evacuated its last North American foothold in Pacific War — the Aleutian Island of Kiska.

1959 — Baghdad Pact changes name to Central Treaty Organisation (Cento); Hawaii becomes 50th state of United States.

1963 — Buddhists are arrested and martial law is imposed in South Vietnam.

1968 — Soviet forces occupying Czechoslovakia seize liberal Communist leader Alexander Dubcek.

1975 — United States lifts 12-year ban on exports to Cuba by foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies, but embargo on direct trade between Cuba and United States remains in effect.

1983 — Philippine opposition leader Benigno Aquino is assassinated as he steps from plane in Manila after three years of self-imposed exile in United States. The assassin is shot dead.

1985 — Leftists march on Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos' palace as tens of thousands of other Filipinos stage largest anti-government protests in a year.

1986 — Angolan guerrilla leader says Soviet-aided government forces have started using chemical warfare in 10-year struggle for control of

longing to drug cartel bosses in crackdown on drug trade.

1990 — 100,000 people gather in Prague's Wenceslas Square for first free commemoration of 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia.

1991 — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev returns to Moscow to reassert full control after failed coup.

Saturday, Aug. 22

1485 — England's King Richard III is killed at Battle of Bosworth, ending War of the Roses.

1567 — Duke of Alba establishes "council of blood" and begins reign of terror as military governor in the Netherlands.

1572 — Earl of Northumberland is executed at York, England, for treason.

1582 — Ruthven raid in which English Party in Scotland captures King James VI while he is hunting and holds him captive until June 1583.

1642 — English Civil War begins with King Charles I branding parliament and its soldiers as traitors.

1654 — Jacob Barsimson, said to be first Jewish immigrant to America, lands at New Amsterdam.

1717 — Spain attacks Sardinia under pretext that some Spanish subjects have been arrested in Italy.

1788 — British found settlement in Sierra Leone, Africa, as asylum for slaves.

1791 — Blacks revolt in French portion of San Domingo in West Indies.

1798 — French forces land in Ireland.

1910 — Japan formally annexes Korea.

1911 — Leonardo Da Vinci painting Mona Lisa is stolen from Louvre Museum in Paris, France. It is recovered in Italy in 1913.

1941 — Nazi troops reach outskirts of Soviet city of Leningrad in World War II.

1972 — Rhodesia is asked to withdraw from 20th Olympic Summer Games because of its racial policies.

1986 — Angolan guerrilla leader says Soviet-aided government forces have started using chemical warfare in 10-year struggle for control of

nation.

1989 — Colombia's foreign minister discourages any military intervention by United States in struggle against that country's drug barons.

1990 — Scores of angry smokers block street near Moscow's Red Square for hours in protest of summer-long cigarette shortage.

Sunday, Aug. 23

1775 — England's King George II proclaims existence of open rebellion in American colonies.

1813 — French are defeated by German army under Friedrich Von Bulow, preventing march on Berlin.

1839 — Hong Kong is taken by British in war with China.

1908 — Abdul Aziz of Morocco is defeated at Marrakesh by Mulai Hafid, the new sultan.

1927 — Nahas Pasha becomes leaders of the Wafd in Egypt.

1937 — Japanese military forces land at Shanghai, China.

1944 — Allied troops in France capture port of Marseilles in World War II.

1952 — Arab League security pact goes into effect.

Edwards hits milestones, but prefers not to count

By Terri Jones
The Associated Press

MONTE CARLO — Director Blake Edwards is hitting a lot of milestones he doesn't like to talk about. He turned 70 on July 26. And he's directing his 50th film — which he says will be his last Pink Panther movie.

Son Of The Pink Panther, the eighth in the series, is scheduled for release in May, three decades after he began work on the first one with Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau.

"It's just a reminder of how damn old you are," he said on the set.

It's been 45 years since Edwards wrote, produced and acted in the 1947 film Panhandle. Along the way he's directed Breakfast At Tiffany's, Days Of Wine And Roses, The Great Race, 10 and the seven previous Pink Panther films.

Those who work with him know him as someone who communicates without words.

"Blake's style is to allow actors to bring their goods to the table," said producer Tony Adams. Edwards' closest associate in Hollywood. "Sometimes he becomes the editor, sometimes he gives just the slightest suggestion. It's kind of a shorthand."

Roberto Benigni, who plays the son of Clouseau, feels that unspoken bond.

"He never tells you what to do. He never explains to me about my character," said Benigni, his exuberance gushing forth.

Edwards, he said, is "very much like Fellini. He's very sweet with actors. When he enters the studios, it is like a breeze of fresh air, something good for the world."

Although he gets along with actors and crews, Edwards has had his share of run-ins with studios and executives. He once called Orion's ads for 10 sexist and vulgar. And he's fought various legal squabbles over the years, including multimillion-dollar lawsuits — even over

the latest Clouseau caper.

Clouseau kicked off the most successful comedy series in cinema, and Edwards said the recently received a pleasing accolade: The Brussels Film Festival named its comedy prize the Clouseau Award.

Benigni, as Sellers 30 years before him, was not Edwards' first choice to play a Clouseau. The Pink Panther of 1964 was supposed to have starred Peter Ustinov as the klutzy cop, but he backed off at the last minute.

French superstar Gerard Depardieu was to have played the son of Clouseau, but cancelled. In came Benigni. The same thing happened with 10, when George Segal was replaced by Dudley Moore.

"Time after time in my life I have started films with somebody who had to be replaced for one reason or another, and I got lucky," Edwards said during a break in rehearsals in the principality of Monaco.

"I call it serendipity. It's a

little like I had an angel on my shoulder at times — not all the time, but in casting it seems I do."

When the angel wasn't around, Edwards — who made the early TV hits Peter Gunn and Mr. Lucky to go along with his critical and box office movie hits — had some famous bombs.

Darling Lili, made for Paramount in 1969 and starring Julie Andrews, who became his wife, went way over budget and his next two movies at MGM — Wild Rovers and The Carey Treatment — were taken away from him and edited by studio head James Aubrey.

The angel also wasn't always around in Edwards' relations with his family; he was estranged for a time from both his daughter, Jennifer, and son, Geoffrey.

The alienation and healing with Jennifer was the basis of That's Life in 1986 — starring Jennifer in the daughter's role and Andrews as the mother.

His daughter has appeared

in several of Edwards' films, including the latest one in which she plays a terrorist. He's also reconciled with his son, who's working as second-unit director on the film.

While there likely will be more sequels to the Pink Panther, "I won't be very involved in it, I certainly won't direct it," he said.

His son will probably take on that role. "That would be great," he said. "He's capable, I just turn things over to him."

Edwards will produce and direct a stage musical version of Victor-Victoria next year with Miss Andrews bringing the lead role to New York.

It will be Edwards' first stage musical — another milestone — which brings up that age thing again.

"I don't know what being older brings forth, except fear," he said. "You wish that you had done it better, and resent the fact that you're not going to have that much more time to do it better."



Director Blake Edwards with his wife actress Julie Andrews.

Clouseau Jr. appears in Son Of The Pink Panther

By Terri Jones

NICE, France — The French policeman careers around the bend in the mountain road on his bicycle, crashes into a car, flips over and lands on his rear end.

"That felt good," he says. Or rather, "that felt good," dusting himself off with characteristic aplomb.

It's officer Clouseau — son of cinema's most famous "hic," the bumbling but beloved Chief Inspector Jacques Clouseau.

Comedian Roberto Benigni, wildly popular in his native Italy, plays the part of Jacques Gambrelli, the illegitimate — and previously undiscovered — son of Clouseau in Son Of The Pink Panther.

His mother is Maria Gambrelli, the maid from the second Pink Panther film, A Shot In The Dark. She has kept the identity of young Jacques' father a secret, but through a series of typically

Clouseau-esque blunders, luck and coincidence, the story comes out.

The \$25 million movie being filmed in southern France, Britain and Jordan was perhaps inevitable.

"I forgot pretty much about it after the last time ended in a major lawsuit," said director Blake Edwards, who started Clouseau on his career with The Pink Panther in 1964.

Sellers' last wife, Lynn Fredericks, successfully sued over use of the Sellers out-takes.

However, the litigation is long past, and the idea to revive Clouseau came up early this year, Edwards recalled on the set of the latest film, eighth in the series.

In Son Of The Pink Panther, Benigni adds French overtones to his native Italian accent. Like his father, he complains of getting a "beump" on his head. He also misquotes poetry, explaining with a shrug, "Leurd

Byron."

"I inherit from my father my vision of the world, but my personality is more Latin, more romantic. He likes women in a very special way, and I like this aspect," he said approvingly.

But as he falls off piers, nearly electrocutes himself and rides his bike into wet cement, he cannot deny his Clouseau heritage. "In my blood, there are some, what, 'chromasomas,'" Benigni said.

"Son of the pink panther" is also a reunion of sorts.

Herbert Lom is back as the eye-twisting Inspector Dreyfuss and Bert Kwouk returns as Cato. Clouseau Sr.'s hapless valet, Claudia Cardinale, the princess in the inaugural Pink Panther, this time is Maria Gambrelli, ever elegant in the wardrobe lent by Italian designer Armani.

The film also stars Debra Farentino as a princess kidnapping by Middle East terrorists, and the director's

daughter Jennifer Edwards as one of the kidnappers.

Benigni and MGM have an option for two more Panther movies, so the dynasty may not stop here.

When the first Pink Panther movie came out in 1964, Benigni was 11, then the magician's assistant. Benigni would pretend to be hypnotized, and take off his clothes.

The magician would set his hand on fire — until one time the protective cream didn't work, and the scars on his left hand serve as a reminder.

Now he's working some of his ribald tendencies into his new role.

"We started today with a condom," he said on the set with a grin. "I think that is a good beginning."

If the back seat of a car, Benigni discovers the condom, blows it up, snaps it around like a slingshot, practically blinding the driver and nearly causing a crash.

The scene is shot three times. Each time Benigni

does it differently.

"His improvisation is absolutely phenomenal," said director Edwards. "All I do is give him the slightest direction, and he takes it from there."

French superstar Gerard Depardieu originally was slated to play Clouseau Jr., but he backed out.

"We are all grateful to the God of fate," said producer Tony Adams. "We believe we are the luckiest people in the world with this guy (Benigni). He is so right for the role."

Said Edwards: "Physically, he's better than Peter. He's more of a mime, in more control of his body. He's very agile, more in the tradition of early comedians."

Benigni said in an interview that his earthy nature goes back to a humble childhood in Tuscany, when his father, an itinerant rail worker, would return to their tiny home. "Three sisters and mother in the same bed. Ev-

ery time my parents were together they made love, with six people in the bed."

Walter Matthau, who made "Il Piccolo Diavolo" (The Little Devil) with Benigni in 1987, once said: "When he came to talk to me he was so dramatic, but so credible that I fell into a trance. I couldn't wait to begin the film."

"If Blake Edwards was Turkish, it would be the same thing. I did Fellini, not because I need Fellini, but because he was something good," Benigni said, referring to the 1989 "La Voce Della Luna" in which he starred under the famed Italian director.

Nevertheless, he stands to reap a fortune from Son Of The Pink Panther, set for release in May 1993. His last movie, Johnny Stecchino, which he directed, earned \$35 million despite limited international distribution, and he has options for two more Panther.



Actress Claudia Cardinale with comedian Roberto Benigni star in the latest Blake Edwards film, Son Of The Pink Panther

Acting across America: Alan Bates in With Two Lumps Of Ice

By Scott Williams
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It is not fair, Alan Bates, one of the leading British actors, has just finished 12 hours filming in the muggy streets of Manhattan, and he looks like he's ready for another 12.

Bates is starring in Simon Gray's With Two Lumps Of Ice, a dark comedy about the misadventures of Hamish Partt, a British playwright who comes to America obsessed with staging his play "properly."

"It is the journey of an obsessed author, working through obsessed producers, obsessed directors, working six days a week, and I'm in everything. But fortunately it's such a light-hearted, affectionate piece — I mean, it's dark as well — but the way he tells it is light and funny."

Bates admits a bias for Gray's works, having acted in seven of his plays and films: "So he kind of likes me, I think."

He laughs. The saturnine grin lights up. The green eyes blaze under the crown of silver-shot brown curls.

Women talk distractedly at neighbouring tables, looking everywhere else in the room. Partt's crisis begins when his new play fizzles at a fringe theatre in London. He decides to take it to an actors' equity "Waiver House" in Los Angeles.

"He's come unsuitably dressed, he's come ill-equipped, he's come under a rather idealistic idea that it's all going to be idealistically done," Bates said.

Partt, crushed in the colli-

sion of egos, indulges his taste for tumbler after tumbler of single malt Scotch whisky with two you-know-whats. "He's the kind of drinker who doesn't know he's on the verge of alcoholism," Bates said. "It stimulates him. It doesn't halt any of his creative processes."

"He doesn't realise until it gets very dangerous that he's got to do something about it. He starts to hallucinate, and he wonders why."

Partt's boozing is starting to annoy, then, when he next is invited to a "civic theatre" production of his play as a guest of the city of Dallas. He very nearly is run out of town. His deterioration continues apace when, miraculously, he's invited to do his play in New York. He accepts on the condition that he gets to direct.

"The dark side of it just keeps shooting through it," Bates said. "Suddenly, when you're laughing away there, you get someone having a hallucination or a drunken fit or a hideous, appalling tragic incident."

"You're not just playing someone who people observe to be in a certain condition, you're observing him observing himself in a certain condition."

After "two lumps" and its post-production concludes, Bates plans to begin rehearsals in London in October on a David Storey play scheduled for a three-month run in the National Theatre.

"I haven't been onstage for two or three years," Bates said. "And it's high time I was in the theatre — for my own sake, if not for anybody else's."

William Turner's travel pictures of Germany

By Kerstin Katja Wienke

BONN — The Rhine was once the favourite destination of Romantic writers, painters and tourists. But no one has portrayed it so captivatingly as William Mallord Turner (1775-1851), the English landscape painter. The exhibition entitled Turner's Rivers of Europe — The Rhine, Meuse and Moselle, which contains some 140 water-colours and hitherto undiscovered sketches for the period 1817-41, was assembled by the London-based Tate Gallery. The exhibition moved via Brussels to Bonn where, as the only place in Germany, it was shown at the Rheinisches Landesmuseum.

The catalogue in English and the research undertaken by the editor, Dr. Cecilia Powell, was financed by the Volkswagen Foundation. To date, the foundation has sponsored four research projects (Turner Scholarships) on the English painting genius.

The art historian has newly identified the location of many of the works and corrected the dates. The painter explored the Rhineland, and the towns along the Meuse and Moselle on foot and by ship in 1817, 1824 and 1839. He sketched untiringly: The Drachenfels, near Bonn, the Lorelei, castles and wine villages, views of Cologne, Koblenz and Mainz. History weighs heavily on the apparently spontaneous impressions of nature. The reason for the journey was the liberation of Europe. Napoleon had been defeated in 1815 and the British were able to visit the continent once more: the painters rushed to Waterloo, to the abandoned battlefields. "His visions seem so revolutionary to us, but they are not

momentary impressions: they are symbolic landscapes. The Rhine castles and ruins beneath a stormy sky are powerful historical symbols. They recall the battles of past centuries," Cecilia Powell explains. "Turner was not an Impressionist even if we can view his atmospheric prints as such today."

On his journey to Italy, William Turner traversed Germany time and again. He was fascinated by river landscapes, painted Heidelberg on Neckar and the Walhalla above the Danube as light-filled visions. The finest is Ehrenbreitstein in Koblenz. The painter described this gigantic fortress at the confluence of the Rhine and Moselle as "the proud stone of honour." He painted it as a white ruin, setting it up as a memorial to the Wars of Liberation in contrast to the everyday scenario of the barges on the Rhine. In the colour studies of 1841, however, the fortress has grown together with the rocks, the matter is dissolved in the volume of pure golden light — as in his famous water-colours of Venice.

This modern landscape painter was also inspired to undertake his first Rhine journey by Lord Byron's verses about the castle landscape. Twenty years later, the same Rhine motifs look much more idyllic, as Cecilia Powell points out. "Here, another spirit prevails. The storm clouds have vanished. And once more, the Rhine is not simply portrayed. It is a vision of peace, prosperity and fertility."

Turner's sketch-books sum up the external appearance of things like prosaic telegrams. With an energetic stroke, the itinerant artist registers the exact topography, and also makes studies of washerwomen, ferryman and



The London Tate Gallery presented views of the Rhine, Meuse and Moselle by British landscape painter William Mallord Turner at the Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Bonn. The

exhibition was previously held in Brussels. This water-colour from the year 1832 shows a view of Fortress Ehrenbreitstein on the east bank of the Rhine at Koblenz.

fishers. All they lack is poetry, colour, atmosphere — everything Turner turns so magnificently into colour in his finished water-colours and oils. The 51 water-colours from the first Rhine journey — which have the freshness of open-air paintings — were created subsequently in the artist's London studio, not on-site. Turner's Romantic impression of the Rhine shows distant views with merging spaces in shimmering blue tones, dramati-

cally exaggerated rocks or a bright evening sky above a peaceful river. Turner had already achieved his masterly transparent water-colour style in Scotland in 1801. He had always been interested in all optical effects, colour and light. He concerned himself with Goethe's "Farbenlehre" (Theory of Colour) and informed himself about the early photographic techniques. Contrary to the original plan, Turner's Rhine, Meuse and

Moselle vedute were not reproduced in a graphic album: they were sold to a private collector. Only a few of the leaves appeared as copper engravings which meant that most of these works remained unknown formerly. The majority are in the care of the National Gallery today, together with his other bequest paintings and drawings. This is what makes the exhibition all the more interesting. The British painter tried out all varieties of

landscape painting in the Rhineland. There are the more conventional vedute with genre figures, well-composed monuments and buildings which betray his early training as an architectural draftsman. There are others, abstract, mood pictures. Only the highly dramatic effects are missing. Land-slides, fires, or symbols of tremendous progress — such as the railway — were recorded by Turner elsewhere — IN-Press.

Some Japanese think health system is too fair

By Michael Hirsh
The Associated Press

TOKYO — As the United States struggles to make its health care system serve more people better, many Japanese say theirs has become too fair.

"You have first class, business class and economy class on airplanes, why not in a

medical system?" said Hiroshi Shimizu, a dermatologist at Keio University Hospital in Tokyo.

In Japan, people live longer than anywhere else in the world, fewer babies die, there are more cat scanners and other advanced devices, per capita, and on top of all that, medical costs per person are lower than in most other

countries.

Yet patients have fretted for years about enduring long waits, then barely getting a glance from a harried doctor. The doctors are beginning to agree with them.

A sacred tenet in postwar Japan has been the guarantee of cheap, equal medical care for everyone. By government decree, an initial consultation

with a hospital internist, for example, costs only \$16 everywhere in the country, about one-third of what most U.S. doctors charge. A second visit is \$4.

As a result, physicians say, it is difficult to be conscientious and still make a living, or for patients to feel like anything but cattle.

"If you can share only a few minutes with each patient, then the treatment tends to be very superficial," said Yasuhiro Suzuki, a Health and Welfare Ministry official who also is a practicing physician. "But on the other side, it increases access of patients to medical doctors."

Shimizu, the dermatologist, said he typically sees 60 patients in four hours, an average of one every four minutes.

"I feel like a shoe salesman sometimes," he said. "Even if you have a very difficult patient, you have to charge the same fee. But if you spend 30 minutes for each patient, you can't survive in Japan."

Many hospitals and doctors make up for low fees by controlling the dispensing of

drugs, setting their prices and, it is said, often overprescribing.

Responding to complaints about fees, the government changed the system last spring to recognize that some doctors and hospitals give better care than others.

Hospitals with larger rooms and more physicians and nurses per patient are allowed higher fees. The system also tries to undo a major flaw: Because fees are the same everywhere, patients flock to the best hospitals, often at the slightest sign of something amiss.

"Even if they just have a cough, they'll go to the hospital and get a cat scan and a blood test," Mr. Suzuki said.

By manipulating fees, the government will try to route out patients with minor ailments to private clinics and people with more serious illnesses to hospitals.

Medical insurance in Japan averages only about \$100 a month per employee, far less than some of the cheapest Health Management Organization plans in America.

Malpractice lawsuits are rare, partly because the legal system is heavily weighted

toward defendants and partly because doctors are revered, almost never challenged. Often, Japanese doctors do not even tell patients what is wrong with them.

According to a 1991 Louis Harris poll, only 12 per cent of Japanese were "very satisfied" with their health care services, compared to 55 per cent of Americans and 45 per cent of Germans.

"Sometimes, I feel that a five-minute diagnosis after a two-hour wait is less than I deserve," said Eiko Oka, a patient at Keio University Hospital.

Americans living in Japan are sometimes shocked by the callousness of treatment.

Claudia Turley, whose husband was an executive in Japan, related how they spent an agonizing weekend waiting for him to be treated for a broken knee. No doctor could be found until Monday. "He was in terrible pain," she said. "Finally, he went into shock."

Japan's medical system is a reflection of postwar society, a blend of traditional Asian deference to authority and a

Biggest crowds at the best hospitals

TOKYO (AP) — The problem of too much equality, or too little discrimination, is evident at Keio Hospital, considered one of Japan's finest.

On a typical morning, the outpatient lobby bustles like a train station.

Hundreds of patients mill around or fidget on vinyl-cushioned benches while numbers flash across an electronic board on one wall, tracking for each of them the hours-long process of waiting, diagnosis and payment. Finally, they line up at a window to collect their medicine.

"Everyone comes here because they feel safe," said Eichi Takahashi, a 70-year-old pensioner with a heart problem.

He pointed at the electronic board. "Since they put in the computer, it's better," he said. "I only waited two hours today. A few years ago, you'd lose a whole half day, couldn't go to work or anything."

devout egalitarianism encouraged by the U.S. occupation. While the Japanese are acutely conscious of rank in business, government and Academia, they shun social classifications.

Government officials and academics, for example, often hoist of Japan's "churyuishi" — middle-class consciousness.

Greater affluence has led to social gaps, however, and a demand for differentiated medical care. At the same

time, the cost of the insurance to government is ballooning because the number of people not working, most of them elderly, has jumped from 6.4 per cent in 1965 to 33.5 per cent in 1990.

"There are limits to what you can change," said Naoki Ikegami, a leading researcher at Keio's School of Medicine.

"The tinkering with the fee schedule, no matter how drastic, will just be a minor adjustment."

Everyone covered, costs are low

TOKYO (AP) — About 70 per cent of Japanese are covered by employer insurance plans and premiums range from 6 per cent to 9.6 per cent of monthly paychecks, with the employee paying an average 3.5 per cent. Employees also pay 10 per cent of medical bills, but no more than \$550 in any month.

The rest of the population is covered by community health insurance guaranteed by the government, which pays the administrative expenses of all the plans. All the insurance plans are nonprofit.

"In the United States, the 30 per cent of the population remains uninsured and without adequate access to health care," Michael Reich, an expert at the Harvard School of Public Health, wrote in a study of the Japanese system.

Per capita expenditures have risen sharply, driven in part by Japan's rapidly aging population, but remain considerably below those of most other advanced countries. The

annual cost in America, \$2,566 per person, is more than double Japan's \$1,171. Annual costs in France are \$1,543 Germany \$1,487 and Sweden \$1,479, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

As a percentage of gross national product, Japan spends less than half what the United States does on medical care — 4.7 per cent compared to 12 per cent — said Yoshimori Hiroi of the Health and Welfare Ministry.

It is all the more remarkable considering that the average Japanese visits a doctor about 15 times a year, compared to about five times in America. Japan has 10,000 hospitals, compared to about 7,000 in the United States, despite having only half the population.

One reason for the discrepancy in expenses is the hidden cost of "out-of-pocket" or private, undeclared gifts to doctors for treatment, and the cost of baby deliveries, which is not covered in Japan.

Hidden psychological troubles may risk heart health — study

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The price of hiding psychological troubles can be a heart that overreacts to stress, and that might mean a higher risk of heart disease, a new study suggests.

Researchers found that people who were hiding psychological distress even from themselves showed an unusual jump in heartbeat and blood pressure when doing stressful tasks.

Other studies have linked such overreaction to an elevated risk of heart disease, said researcher Jonathan Shedler. Heart disease sets

the stage for heart attacks.

"We know that being emotionally distressed, being constantly anxious or constantly depressed isn't so healthy," but the new work suggests that suppressing distress may be even worse, he said.

It is not unknown what percentage of people who consider themselves psychologically healthy have hidden distress, although it was common in the non-random samples he studied, he said. Such hidden problems are hard to detect in oneself, but they may appear in indirect ways such as unexplained headaches or stomach aches, or friends might notice that a person appears anxious or unhappy,

Prof. Shedler said.

Shedler is a professor of clinical psychology at the Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York. He spoke in an

interview before presenting his work at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association.

Dr. Redford Williams, a behavioral medicine researcher at the Duke University

Medical Centre in Durham, North Carolina, said he found the proposed link to heart disease "quite plausible."

He said it follows previous research linking heart disease risk to lack of social

support, hostility and "job strain," which is the experience of having little control over a demanding job.

The new study adds more credibility to the idea that psychological factors can

promote heart disease, he said in a telephone interview.

Dr. Williams also said that the link between heart disease and cardiac overreaction to stress has not yet been proven, although he consid-

ers it a strong hypothesis. Prof. Shedler said he considers the evidence convincing.

The studies have been accepted for publication in an psychological journal.

Practical side to experiments on how brain stores data

By Ute Wegner

Apple, banana, melon, nose... Nose? Why, that's a part of the body, not a kind of fruit. Mary determinedly hits the "no" key and, as she arranges words by concept on the monitor screen, an electroencephalogram records

brain activity relayed by electrodes attached to her head.

Psychologist Axel Mecklinger of the Free University of Berlin uses experiments such as these memory tests to carry out research into the workings of the human memory. How is information stored and retrieved? Why can we

remember some thing well and others vaguely at best?

In his quest for an answer to these questions Dr. Mecklinger, visited the United States, where he carried out his tests in one of the leading specialized laboratories at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

His tests were a success. "The signs are that two entirely different mechanisms govern the way we gain access to information stored in the memory," he says.

That sounds simpler than it is. Not for nothing have scientists sought for centuries to lift the veil of how the memory works. In the mid-1960s U.S. psychologist Saul Sternberg made a milestone mark in memory research.

His test, since been named after him, could hardly have been simpler. Test persons were shown a row of numbers for a few seconds. A little later they were shown a few individual test numbers.

Their task was to push a button when they felt a number had been included in the first series of numbers. His finding was that the longer the row of numbers to be memorized, the longer it took people to answer.

Sternberg inferred from this that the memory as a search engine operates sequentially, step by step. He then drew up the following model. The search, he argued, took four steps from the moment the test person was shown the test number to the moment he or she pressed the answer key.

In the first, or perception, stage the memory recognizes the test number and registers it. At the second stage, in which cognitive processing goes on, the memory actually swings into operation, com-

paring the test number with each of the numbers in the series.

Not until this stage has been completed is a decision reached on whether or not the number was one of the ones in the series. The fourth and final stage is the answer: yes or no.

"The Sternberg model is based on the assumption that these stages are undertaken in strict succession. That remains to be seen," says Martin Golz, a physicist employed at the Wilhelm Griesinger central clinic for psychiatry and neurology East Berlin.

That is exactly what Dr. Mecklinger wanted to know. Does the memory run flat-out? Are thousands of brain cells active and constantly emitting electrical signals? An electroencephalogram records this activity as waves and zigzags on graph paper.

Certain waves reflect specific thought processes. Three hundred milliseconds after a task has been set, for instance, a minute potential known as the P300 is recorded. It plays a crucial role in the way the memory works.

It is probably always emitted when events we expect to happen, on the basis of information stored in the past, fail to do so. Once the search gets under way the curve plunges into minus, a process psychologist refer to as "search negativation."

These phenomena brought Dr. Mecklinger one step nearer to his target. Assuming that P300 has something to do with information being entered into the memory, it ought, if Sternberg is right, to occur at the end of the first stage of memory activity, the perception stage.

Only then ought the real memory search to start, triggering search negativation on the EEG. "In our case, that wasn't so," he noted. "We found clear indications that a substantial amount of memory search goes on even after a word has been recognized and that the answer is delayed."

In order words, P300 and the search negativation do not appear in clear succession on the graph paper. They overlap.

"The overlapping of certain components which can be associated with specific parts of the process indicated that the memory search cannot be a process that occurs in clear sequence; a number of process are activated simultaneously."

The Sternberg model also fails to account for another phenomenon. If people are shown numbers and the frequency with which they are shown them is varied, they recognize the ones that are shown more frequently faster than the others.

So Dr. Mecklinger feels that another model, the continuous flow model, comes nearer to the truth. "This model," he says, "is much more flexible. If a number is well known, the fact that it was one of the numbers in the test series is faster to register and to reach the level at which a response is activated than is the case with a number that is seldom presented."

Visually this process can be compared with the development of a Polaroid film. All you can see at first is a black surface. It is a while before outlines and an image can be clearly seen.

"Information is partly activated in the memory on the

basis of how well-known it is." Dr. Mecklinger concludes. "If this fails to achieve results, the memory is through-checked at the same time. These seem to be the two sub-phases of which the memory search consists."

Models of this kind can have a practical use. With the aid of the strictly sequential memory steps that are presupposed by the Sternberg model inferences may be drawn as to the occurrence of errors in the memory search.

These may indicate that a patient is suffering from a specific complaint that can be diagnosed and treated sooner. Schizophrenia is a case in point.

Some specialists, including Wilfried Schreiber, head of psychiatry at the Wilhelm Griesinger Clinic, feel it is not a uniform complaint and takes many sub-forms. Many other specialists doubt whether this is the case.

Jointly with clinic psychologists Dr. Schreiber checked the memories of schizophrenic patients using the Sternberg test. "Clear differences between groups were found to exist in respect of the speed of cognition," he says.

Depending on the subgroup involved, entirely different memory stages were slowed down. Is this method, using a fairly simple test to diagnose certain states of mental illness more clearly, the shape of things to come?

Dr. Brigitte Kurella, a neurophysiologist at the Griesinger Clinic, is confident that it may. "It is an interesting new approach," she says. "There haven't been many clinical findings yet, but it could well be the shape of things to come" — Der Tagesspiegel.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

MELANCHOLIA

By Harold B. Counts

ACROSS
1 Evergreen tree
2 Type of palm
3 Having a pecky comparison
4 Resemblance
5 A bear
6 Biblical word
7 Heron's land
8 Cher
9 Encourages
10 Expresses deep grief
11 Put money in the pot
12 Gravel
13 Shot or skate start
14 "The" — and the
15 Peridium
16 Prison
17 Mrs. Curie
18 Gypsy man
19 Shave leather

DOWN
1 Idiot
2 Ovary
3 Outer covering
4 Put — pedestal (verb)
5 Expressed deep grief
6 Harsh passage of water
7 "In the head"
8 Sucky stuff
9 Processors
10 Plot
11 Neighborhoods
12 Year or frog man
13 Roman household
14 Mat of bamboo
15 Trees with drooping branches
16 Usher range

35 Light brown
36 Artist Edward
37 Telegram
38 Black eye
39 Noble
40 City in France
41 Glistening
42 Nematoe worm
43 Across Talk
44 Uggler Rod
45 Leo's call
46 Aquatic mammals
47 Cash unmet
48 Rancous ones
49 Plaster Matress
50 Pleasing to the touch
51 Stained
52 Vase
53 In a solemn manner

56 Decline in interest
57 Sarcasm of (sarcasm)
58 Lilies
59 Bear
60 Explains
61 Fragrant tree
62 Berries
63 Rooster
64 Uggler Rod
65 Harsh sights
66 Clotless
67 Surmount
68 Placard
69 Slouse
70 Moves stealthily
71 Vase
72 Hack
73 Cavern

62 City on the Adriatic
63 Commandment
64 Make over
65 Cedar
66 Supporting framework
67 Berries
68 Baseball bat-of-fur
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Diagramless

21 x 31, By James Bartlett

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3 Bureaucracy
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Quarter of Somali children under five 'already dead'

WASHINGTON (R) — At least a quarter of all Somali children under the age of five are believed to have died as a result of famine and civil strife in the East African country, according to U.S. officials and aid organization leaders.

"One-fourth of all children under five are estimated to have perished already," said Peter Davies of InterAction, a coalition of 135 relief organizations working in Somalia.

Andrew Natsios, the senior U.S. official who was appointed last week as President George Bush's special coordinator for Somalia relief, said that figure was probably an underestimate, though he and Mr. Davies could give no firm number.

Mr. Natsios, Mr. Davies and other officials briefed reporters on the eve of a U.S. military relief flight to Somalia which was due to start on Wednesday or Thursday.

They stressed that no amount of emergency aid could succeed in stopping starvation unless it was backed by a political solution

to the anarchy raging in Somalia.

"At this point, our efforts can help reduce the death rate, they cannot end all hunger-related deaths," said Mr. Natsios.

Assistant Defence Secretary Bob Wotho said the United States was committing four C-141 and eight C-130 planes to the relief effort. Some 150 U.S. military personnel plus an undisclosed number of security staff would be involved in what he said would be an extremely risky operation.

The operation, codenamed "Provide Relief," was to be run in cooperation with U.N. relief agencies and would be a major plank in international efforts to ease the world's worst humanitarian crisis, in which 1.5 million Somalis are at immediate risk of starving to death.

Officials said the major problem would be preventing marauding armed teenage gangs from stealing the relief supplies that were airlifted in.

They painted a picture of a country in which internal discipline had totally collapsed, socie-

ty had disintegrated and anarchy ruled.

The U.N. special representative for Somalia, Mohammad Salmoon, called on warlords, who have carved the country up into tribal fiefdoms, to respond to the world's generosity by guaranteeing the safety of aid workers.

He urged them to come together and hold peace talks.

Mr. Natsios said there was no way of knowing how many Somalis have already died. But he compared the disaster to the Sudan famine of 1988 or the Ethiopia famine of 1984-85, both of which claimed millions of lives.

Mr. Davies said that while Americans gave \$110 million between October 1984 to March 1985 during the Ethiopian famine, the response to the Somali emergency had been less than one per cent of that amount.

The United States government has provided \$85 million in aid to Somalia over the past year and Mr. Bush last week directed that an additional 145,000 tonnes of food be provided.

Sudan welcomes relief flights to Juba

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government has welcomed a United Nations plan to resume relief flights to the besieged southern capital of Juba.

The United Nations said it would resume its food airlift Thursday to starving people in Juba, suspended on July 18 because of heavy fighting in the region.

A statement by the Sudanese Relief and Rehabilitation Commission on Tuesday complained meanwhile that the suspension of flights has "caused a lot of harm."

The commission said it did "not object to the continuation of flights to the rebel-controlled areas because of its conviction that the citizens are all Sudanese wherever they are."

Sudan's Minister of Commerce Ibrahim Obeidallah said earlier in the day that Juba airport was safe, indicating that the rebels had little control in the region. He said his country's national carrier continued its flights after the U.N. suspension and "there is no reason that hinders relief organisations from sending supplies to Juba."

He said the government had continued delivering supplies to the citizens of Juba.

Relief officials in Nairobi, Kenya, acknowledged there were frequent flights out of Khartoum but said these landed with difficulty in Juba and sometimes turned back on the spot. The officials believe the planes mostly carry troops and military supplies, not food.

Juba is a government-held garrison town, under rebel siege. In the last month, the insurgents have shot down three government aircraft, killing nearly 200 people, according to figures released by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which its forces are training heavy artillery on Juba airport constantly.

Saddam aide suggests Bush get psychiatric help

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Saddam Hussein's press secretary suggested Wednesday that President George Bush needs psychiatric help and said his reelection campaign was based on Iraq rather than "economic crisis" at home.

Abdul Jabbar Mohsen, writing in the government-run daily Al-Jumhuriya, said the American people should insist that Mr. Bush be examined "by a committee of neurologists and psychiatrists" to see if he is mentally fit.

"Bush imagines the existence of a very dangerous situation and assumes the existence of a crashing battle going on. He creates between Iraq and the U.N. incidents and disputes which in reality do not exist," Mr. Mohsen said in a commentary on the latest tensions over U.N. weapons inspections and protection of Shiite Muslims in southern Iraq.

Mr. Bush's administration has threatened military action unless Baghdad complies with all the U.N. ceasefire resolutions that ended the Gulf war. Earlier this week, the president angrily denied a New York Times report that such action was being considered to boost his campaign.

The Al-Jumhuriya commentary said the suggestion that Mr. Bush was mentally off balance may be seen by some as "an exaggeration by an enemy against an enemy."

"I don't think there's any exaggeration on the part of people who see Bush every other day going on vacation, then interrupting the vacation as if heavens are falling apart, and disembark from his helicopter in front of the White House and in a panic turn left, then turn right," Mr. Mohsen said.

He said Mr. Bush appears before journalists and "excitedly draws a piece of paper from his pocket to read an attack against

No 'political' detainees in Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

that in certain cases security departments' views should be taken into consideration while appointing people at such departments, like the Prime Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Information, radio and television, Royal Jordanian, and the Civil Aviation Authority. This is being done in view of the sensitivity of these departments' activities.

"The committee's report admits that those dismissed for political reasons have now been reinstated but are paid less wages than they received during their previous work. This question is being dealt with in the same way the government did with the regulations on allowances for doctors and engineers."

"Persons serving terms for political reasons: Jordan's positions do not have any inmates under the category 'political prisoner.' All inmates are ordinary criminals. The government every now and then reviews all the cases and a great number of those allegedly jailed for political acts have been released as mentioned in the report," Sharif Zeid said.

"It is regrettable that some inmates suffered food poisoning. The prison administration has now taken precautionary measures to ensure such incidents do not recur."

"Passports: The issuance of passports is governed by certain regulations and each citizen has the constitutional right to a passport. Under certain circumstances a number of temporary passports held by non-Jordanians have been withdrawn," he said.

"These passports are not governed by the same regulations related to regular passports. The government, however, will con-

tinued to issue temporary passports."

Referring to the report's remarks that all Jordanians are equal before the law regardless of their language or religion and that there had been violations of this concept and other excesses, the prime minister noted that no specific instance was mentioned in the report.

Yet, he said, "the government hereby reaffirms its commitment to ensure justice for all citizens. There can be no room for injustice and the Constitution guarantees the rights of all people. In accordance with Article 17 of the Constitution all citizens have the right to address the authorities regarding their personal or public affairs. The door is quite open to all persons to present their case to any official."

"Should any citizen feel that he was done an injustice, he has the right to seek justice at court," he added.

The prime minister pledged that his government would deal with any complaint or remark. But, he said, he would like to have all complaints and grievances accurate and documented so that the appropriate authorities can deal with them.

The prime minister also pledged the government's keenness to respond to all that is being published by the House of Public Freedoms Committee and stressed that the government was bound by law to implement the law. He said he had liked to hear the committee demand from the government to apply the law in specific cases and not to hear the phrase, "The government should be made to" apply the law.

Peres says Israel is serious

(Continued from page 1)

He dismissed Israeli media reports that Israel was ready for an interim agreement with Syria to include territorial concessions in the Golan Heights.

Mr. Peres said that Israel was so far the only side making tangible concessions by freezing settlements and offering to introduce Palestinian autonomy within a year, an interim measure ahead of negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories within three years.

"What are the Palestinians risking? I mean we are here on the giving side. I think it will be tragic if the Palestinians, on the foreign ministers or the Arab countries, postpone it."

"If the Palestinians will agree to... autonomy, not independence, then I do not see problems. If they are true to the letter and the spirit of an interim agreement I do believe we can have a smooth ride towards peace, because this government is really serious and is really willing... in a given period of time to hand over to the Palestinian people self-government," Mr. Peres said.

He denied news reports that Israel would offer an interim solution to Syria based on withdrawal from at least part of the

Golan Heights.

"I don't think that we shall start with the Golan Heights," Mr. Peres said. "We shall start to clarify the overall foundation of the future relations between the Syrians and us."

He suggested, however, that Israel would not oppose Syria broaching the issue. "We shall be anxious to listen to the Syrian position. And then the Syrians can raise whatever they want," he said.

Mr. Peres also confirmed that the new government has agreed to attend multilateral talks starting next month, even if some of the Palestinian delegates are from outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli delegations boycotted the last sessions on refugee problems and economic development because the United States allowed Palestinians from outside the occupied territories to attend.

Mr. Peres said that Israel insisted only that the Palestinians could not be members of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), could not live in Arab East Jerusalem and could not bring up the subject of "the right of return."

Assault on Kabul continues

(Continued from page 1)

been killed," said the source, in radio contact with Kabul.

The Hezb met fierce resistance around Bala Hisar and came under government attack in the southwest around the Defence Ministry at the Darul Aman Palace.

Hezb rockets slammed into the palace of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and into residential areas of mostly mud houses in the south and east of the city, the sources said.

Pakistan has assured the Kabul government that it is not arming dissident Mujahideen guerrillas attacking Kabul, Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Hamid Karzai said.

"We have had reports of weapons supplies going in and we

have conveyed our point of view on this to the government of Pakistan," Mr. Karzai told Reuters in Islamabad.

"They have repeatedly assured us that they would stop any such thing if it is happening," he said.

Reports as recent as last week suggest weapons and ammunition are transported across the border to reinforce the Hezb.

Pakistan was the main conduit for arms to the Mujahideen in their 14-year resistance to the Soviet-backed government.

Pakistan's powerful Inter-Services Intelligence was the pipeline for the arms, most of which went to their favourite protégé Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e-Islami.

France, Kuwait sign defence pact

PARIS (R) — France and Kuwait signed a defence pact on Tuesday and French Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy dismissed with Kuwait's defence chief growing tension with Iraq.

Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah said he stressed in the talks the need for Iraq to comply with U.N. resolutions on repatriation of hundreds of prisoners and the border between Iraq and Kuwait.

He declined to say whether the Gulf war allies will intervene soon to force Baghdad to comply with U.N. resolutions.

"It is not for me to judge if there will be action soon," he told reporters.

land Dumas said earlier the allies were discussing ways of keeping Baghdad from attacking Shiite Muslim communities in southern Iraq.

Baghdad still claims Kuwait as a province of Iraq, despite being ejected from the emirate by U.S.-led coalition forces after its ill-fated invasion in August 1990.

France contributed some 15,000 troops to the alliance which drove Iraq out of Kuwait last year.

Sheikh Ali and French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe later signed a defence pact on the lines of Kuwait's agreements with the United States and Britain.

Sheikh Ali said the accord would provide for France's automatic intervention if Kuwait was attacked.

But France was reported to prefer leaving room for negotiation before intervention and a defence ministry statement made no mention of an intervention clause.

"The accord provides for joint Franco-Kuwaiti manoeuvres, exchange of officers from the two armies and in general terms, a strengthening of defence ties between the two countries," the statement said.

Sheikh Ali said Kuwait was committed to buying weapons from France and some unspecified contracts with French companies were being signed in Kuwait.

French military sources said the emirate was still thoroughly reviewing its defence and had not decided what to acquire for its armed forces.

The emirate plans to spend \$13.6 billion on its military over the next 10 years and diplomats say it is shopping for hundreds of tanks, personnel carriers, helicopters, artillery and defence systems.

Juba is a government-held garrison town, under rebel siege. In the last month, the insurgents have shot down three government aircraft, killing nearly 200 people, according to figures released by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which its forces are training heavy artillery on Juba airport constantly.

Egyptian attorney general suspends transplants from executed inmates

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's attorney general has suspended his order allowing the use in transplants of organs from executed prisoners because of protests from fundamentalist Muslim doctors.

One physician charged that his colleagues who carried out the first such transplant were guilty of murder. But the surgeon who performed the operation said he hopes he will soon be able to do similar transplants.

On July 20, doctors transplanted the liver and kidneys of a man who was hanged after being convicted of raping and killing a four-year-old girl.

It was the first time in the country that organs from executed criminals were used for transplants.

But the operation prompted criticism in Egypt and elsewhere about ethical ramifications of the practice. Some critics expressed particular outrage over Attorney General Ragaa Al-Araby's list of conditions under which authorities need not have a prisoner's consent for harvesting of his organs.

The face of several letters from doctors protesting that "proper medical procedures" had not been observed.

An official at Al-Araby's office confirmed the report but refused to elaborate. He said the attorney general's ruling was suspended pending an investigation of the protests.

One of the protesters, Dr. Safwat Lutfy of Cairo University Medical School, said his objection is simple:

"Islam says a person is dead when his soul leaves his body. As long as the heart is still beating, this person is still alive. You cannot call him dead."

"Western countries identify death as the clinical death of the brain and not the heart. (This) is against Islam and illegal."

In Egypt, where the government says 90 per cent of the legal code is based on Islamic law, a person is considered legally dead when the heart stops beating.

Because all organs except the cornea become useless for transplants after heart activity ceases, transplants of the liver and heart had not been performed in Egypt.

Last month, Al-Araby obtained approval from Egypt's top Islamic clerics, then invoked his powers to modify laws and ruled that doctors could harvest organs from executed inmates.

A medical team stood by as death row inmate Ahmad Mahmoud Ghalab was hanged.

division of Iraq into three separate entities — a destabilising scenario which they have long feared and wished to avoid.

"In ideal circumstances we would prefer peace at any cost the last thing we want to see is Iraq divided," a Gulf official said.

"But we have a big problem on our hands which has to be addressed. I think there will be strong tolerance and support in the area to initiate action because it is intended to bring long-term peace," he said.

Diplomats and officials say the six states within the oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) want Iraq to remain intact to balance the growing military and political muscle of revolutionary Iran.

Until recently they opposed western intervention in southern Iraq because of fears the Shiite South could fall under the influence of Shiite-ruled Iran.

Exiled Iraqi Shiites welcomed the western decision but said they feared Iraq may respond with

U.S. maintains armed presence in Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP) — These are the U.S. forces in and around the Gulf, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

There are about 23,800 military personnel, which includes 2,800 marines wrapping up exercises in Kuwait and 2,400 army soldiers arriving there for other training exercises.

There are 19 ships in the Gulf, including the aircraft carrier Independence, the command ship Lasalle, three cruisers, two destroyers, three frigates, four amphibious ships and four support ships.

There are six U.S. ships in the Red Sea, including one cruiser,

two destroyers, two frigates and one support ship.

There are 18 ships in the Mediterranean, including the aircraft carrier Saratoga, three cruisers, one destroyer, two frigates, six support ships and five amphibious ships.

The Pentagon declines to reveal the number of aircraft in the Gulf region, but it has retained F-117 Stealth fighters, F-15E long-range fighters, F-14 fighter and F-16 combat aircraft, A-10 attack aircraft, EF-111 electronic jammers, U-2 reconnaissance and E-3 AWACS, as well as a range of refuelling and tactical airlift aircraft in the region.

Allies draw up 'no-fly zone' ultimatum

(Continued from page 1)

increased repression of Shiites on the ground.

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Asked whether he had made any progress after a second round of talks with Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Al-Sabab late on Tuesday, Mr. Eliasson, the U.N. emergency aid coordinator, said:

"It's a difficult, large area.

We've made some progress but work remains to be done... we're in the middle of our work now... we have some areas in which we have continued work to do."

He declined to say what exactly the progress was.

The White House said Tuesday it supported a United Nations decision to call off an inspection of an Iraqi military ministry but denied it had played any role in the decision.

United Nations inspectors in Baghdad on Monday cancelled a visit to a military ministry considered off-limits by Iraq, avoiding a confrontation that the New York Times had said could lead to renewed allied bombing.

Spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the administration thought the U.N. inspection team was doing "an outstanding job."

He denied that the White House had asked them to halt the planned inspection, or that the decision had spoiled administration plans to provoke a confrontation with Iraq.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 Circus Partenaire
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 NBA match
22:00 News in English
22:30 "The World's Oldest Living Brides Maid"

PRAYER TIMES

06:35 Fajr
06:57 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:59 Dhuhr
16:13 'Asr
19:22 Maghrib
20:45 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swarth
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
627075
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
627440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622556

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

622541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
625453.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
772651.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian Evangelical Church Tel.
827981, 825326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811285.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654932.
Church of the Nazarenes Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.
Normal summer weather will prevail
and winds will be northwesterly moder-
ate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly
moderate and sea calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp.
19/31
Aqaba 25/37
Deserts 16/33
Jordan Valley 24/35
Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-
man 30, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings:

AMMAN 60 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wael Khattabi 663917
Dr. Abdul Aziz Touban 783708
Dr. Adel Dabbous 612177
Dr. Baghdad Bader 849262
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637655
Nairoba pharmacy 638372
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
IBRD:
Dr. Mohammed Al Tami (243711)
Al Shamsi pharmacy 985238
ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Faraj 986671
Dr. Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rasme 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 77121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 630390
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage:
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance) 010230
Overseas Calls 623101
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Mansoury, J. Amn. 642816
Abdell Maternity, J. Amn. 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 6641714
Shamsani Hospital 771016
Al-Basir, J. Adrafiah 845846
Al-Mustashir Hospital 6672719
The Islamic, Abdull 666127/37
Al-Abbi, Abdull 6641646
Tadain, Al-Muhajress 771016
Al-Basir, J. Adrafiah 7711125
Army, Marika 896111/15
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amn Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900520
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hilma Modern Hospital (09)909090
IBRD:
Princess Summa Hospital (02)275555

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)320055, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15 Sanaa (RJ)
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Riyadh (RJ)
10:45 Dhahran (RJ)
11:15 Aqaba (RJ)
11:30 Dubai; Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:45 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Colombo (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:15 Beirut (MES)
13:40 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (RJ)
15:30 Riyadh (SU)
16:15 Istanbul (TK)
21:30 Cairo (MS)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GP)
14:10 Riyadh (SU)
17:25 Istanbul (TK)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
20:35 Larnaca (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upstower price in fils per kg.
Apple (red) 550/320
Banana 500/450
Banana (Mukammal) 550/500
Beans 480/300
Cabbage 90/30
Carrot 250/200
Cauliflower 240/180
Cucumbers (large) 120/80
Cucumbers (small) 230/180
Eggplant 50/30
Garlic 550/450
Lemon 600/500
Marrow (large) 150/100
Marrow (small) 320/160
Onion (dry) 130/90
Onion (green) 150/100
Peas 600/500
Potatoes 600/300
Pepper (hot) 220/160
Pepper (sweet) 150/100
Potato 180/120
Sweet Melon 60/30
Tomato 60/30
Watermelon 60/30

Bird retires from U.S. basketball

BOSTON (R) — U.S. basketball great Larry Bird, saying persistent back injuries forced him from the game, announced his retirement from the Boston Celtics Tuesday after 13 seasons and three championships with the team.

"I never wanted this time to come — but it's here," Bird, 33, told a crowded news conference. "Don't feel sorry for me," he said. "I've had a great life and great times playing with and against the finest basketball players in the world."

"I couldn't shake my back troubles and I gave all I could of my body and soul to the Celtics," said Bird as he choked back sobs. Besides his years leading the Celtics and as a star player with Indiana State University, Bird helped the star-studded U.S. "dream team" win a gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics earlier this month.

"I feel I've been very fortunate. I found basketball is the easiest thing to do. You stay in great hotels, travel in top notch planes and have a great experience," Bird said, adding that while he is leaving the basketball court, he will be staying on with the Celtics in a management role as a special assistant to the team's executive Vice President, Dave Gavitt.

"Getting away from basketball will be tough but I feel good about staying within the Celtics family," he said.

Bird was drafted by the Celtics in 1978 and instantaneously dominated the game in his rookie season. "I never doubted that I could be one of the top players in the league after visiting the Celtics rookie camp," Bird recalled.

"When I came into the league I had a vision that I would win five championships," Bird said in acknowledging that he fell two championships short. "It's still mind-boggling to me to see 15,000 people come out to watch us play a basketball game," he said.

"I don't like to go out this way," Bird said in listing the back troubles that have slowed him during the last year, "but I must."

Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who with Bird was credited with reviving the slumping National Basketball Association (NBA), said he would miss seeing his old friend, court rival, and Olympic teammate.

"On the court, Larry was the only player in the league that I feared and he was the smartest

player I ever played against. I always enjoyed competing against him because he brought out the best in me," Johnson said in a statement.

Bird's retirement Tuesday saddened loyal fans who cheered the moves of "Larry Legend" for 13 years, but many knew the ailing forward's time had come.

"I'm disappointed as a fan that we won't get to see him play anymore," said Dave Loffredo, a 36-year-old deliveryman. "But for his well-being, it was the best move he could do."

"I thought it was going to happen last year," said David Brandenburg, 25. "It seemed inevitable."

Tom Trabucco, 32, also was resigned. "He can't play no more. I'm sure he's the type of guy, if he can't play 100 per cent, he won't play at all," Trabucco said. "I mean, at least he's not taking the money and running."

"You want Larry Bird looking good, not looking bad. It's time for the Celtics to move forward with their young players," said Owen Bourque, 27, a cook at a downtown Bar who was stirring chili.

Allan Bristow, Charlotte Hornets head coach, guarded Bird while Bristow played for Utah and Dallas in the early 1980s.

"He was a great player from the very beginning," Bristow said. "There are very few players that can adapt to the NBA that quickly." The NBA was easy to him, but just because it was easy, his competitiveness and desire continued. When you look at consistency, you knew every night you were going to get 110 per cent from Larry Bird. I think that was his trademark."

NBA coaches and players had nothing but good things to say about the man who used to be a player with behind-the-back passes, last-minute steals and 3-pointers from the parking lot.

"Larry Bird was the one guy that epitomized the way the game should be played," Portland Trail Blazers coach Rick Adelman said Tuesday. "He's without a doubt one of the greatest players who ever played the game."

"We regret all good things have to end. It's especially hard to see a great hall player like Larry Bird retire," Chicago Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "We will miss his efforts on the floor and his ability to pick up his team and win close games."

"We're losing one of the true legends of our game. He's a great innovator," Cleveland center Brad Daugherty said. "Larry and Magic (Johnson) revolutionized the game and helped give a lot of us a great opportunity. It's sad and the game will miss him."

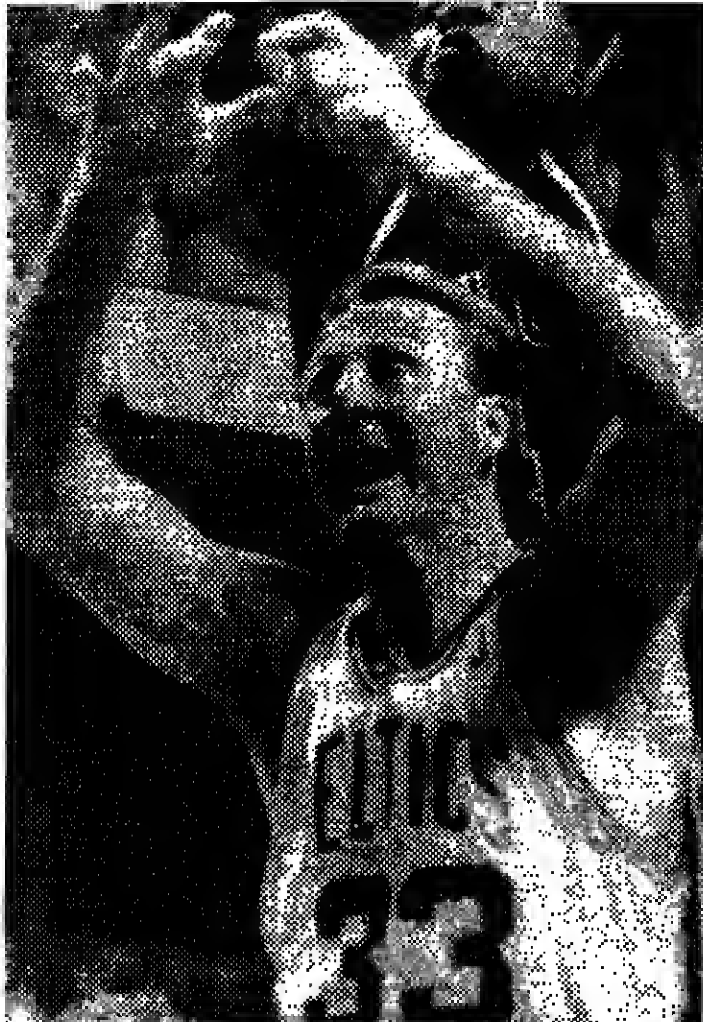
Bird called former Los Angeles Laker Michael Cooper the toughest defensive player he ran up against. Cooper, now a Lakers executive, returned the compliment.

"Without a doubt he was one of the most, if not the most, difficult player for me to defend," he said.

"I know this is hard on him, but because of the circumstances, he realized he would be unable to give a hundred per cent. And with Larry's competitiveness, I know he would feel like he was cheating the Celtics, his fans, and the entire NBA if he were not able to give his best effort," Cooper said.

Golden State Warriors coach Don Nelson, a former Celtics, echoed many when he gave Bird and Magic Johnson credit for revitalizing the National Basketball Association.

"He's one of the all-time greats to ever play the game," Nelson said. "I'm sad to see him go, yet I



Larry Bird

know he has played in a lot of pain the last couple of years. If this is what he wants to do, then I'm happy for him."

"I thought he was the one who could best with stand pain," Celtics coach Chris Ford said. "No one will ever know what it took for him to go out there and compete."

Denver Nuggets coach Dan Issel, who jostled Bird many times in the paint until he retired in 1985, lauded "Larry legend" for not trying to hang on too long.

"I think it's a good time because we won't have to watch him hobble up and down the court and he got to do it on his terms," Issel said. "I think that's the goal of any athlete. You know it's going to end eventually, you just would like to have it end on your terms."

"It's going to seem odd not seeing Larry Bird in a Boston Celtics uniform," added Hershey Hawkins of the Philadelphia 76ers.

A somber Celtics forward Rick Fox watched Bird say goodbye.

"I knew it was raining in Boston for three days for some reason," Fox said. "He's almost like a father figure."

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Seles wins in Canadian Open debut

MONTREAL (R) — A below par world number one Monica Seles was still too much for American Marianne Werdel for a 6-2, 6-4 victory in her Canadian Open debut. Seles was bothered by five double faults in the 68 minute second round match and slowed a little by an injury to her left ankle. "My serve let me down a little. I wasn't finding my rhythm," said Seles, who has lost in the final of her last two tournaments, the most recent Sunday in Los Angeles to Martina Navratilova. About her bothersome ankle Seles said, "It hurt a little at a few points, but it's only a little sprain. It's not big, or I wouldn't have played." Tournament organizers are happy that the 18-year-old Yugoslavian felt up to playing the \$550,000 hard court tournament after the late withdrawals last week of the intended top two seeds Steffi Graf and Navratilova. Joining Seles in the third round were fifth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria and eighth-Lori McNeil of the United States.

Connors has no problem with Dilucia

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Jimmy Connors, the old man of tennis, played like a youngsters in romping past David Dilucia 6-1, 6-2 during the opening round of the \$1 million RCA Championships Tennis Tournament Tuesday. Connors, two weeks shy of his 40th birthday, is still having a lot of fun playing in his 21st year on the pro tour. "I love what I do, competing against young players," said the eleven-seeded Connors. "Tennis is more of a show for me now considering all the other things (business involvements) I have going." Connors had everything going for him in the match as the 22-year-old Dilucia's finest moment came when he held serve in the first game. "I'm happy playing like I'm playing," said Connors, ranked 37th in the world. "Every match I'm getting better, hopefully, I'll go out and play better tomorrow."

McEnroe opens strongly at New Haven

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (R) — John McEnroe had few problems in coming back after a two week layoff by beating Swede Kai Apell 6-1, 6-5 in the opening round of the \$1.04 million Volvo International Tennis Tournament Tuesday. "Considering I hadn't seen any action in two weeks and I was coming off a foot injury I was hitting the ball real well," said the ninth-seeded McEnroe, the highest seed to play on the first day of action after Monday's washout of the week-long hard court tournament. Though he had few problems with his 22-year-old opponent McEnroe, 33, is realistic about his chances of playing again like he did in the early 1980s when he had world No. 1 for four years. "I just can't do what I used to do in tennis," said McEnroe, who did electrify Wimbledon last month by reaching the semifinals. "I don't plan on playing full-time next year — and that won't change unless I win the U.S. Open. I'd say that's a rather remote possibility."

Nike ends deal with Krabbe

BONN (R) — U.S. sportswear manufacturer Nike Inc said Wednesday it had cancelled its sponsorship deal with double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe and her German team mate Grit Breuer after they failed a drugs test. The two athletes face a four-year ban from competition after random dope tests last month showed they had taken the muscle-building drug clenbuterol. "Because of the provisional ban by the German Athletics Federation and the athletes' admission that they took clenbuterol, Nike has ended the contracts with Katrin Krabbe and Grit Breuer with immediate effect," the company said in a statement issued in Germany and the United States. The company did not say what the deal with the two former east Germans, originally signed in April 1990, were worth. Nike Director Steve Miller said all its sponsorship contracts with athletes contained a clause forbidding them to use performance-enhancing drugs.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The void of course Moon square to the Sun brings both delays and disappointments today, so it is best not to set any sort of unrealistic schedule that can't be easily adjusted.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A new but long accepted way to put into motion your talent is awaiting your action in the morning but later you find your judgment is off key.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Listen to what a family member has to suggest for more security at your residence and then sidestep some confidence given by one who is biased.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Gain the good will of others by going into their business perplexities earlier in the day while later a friend can give you some poor recommendation.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Follow to the letter and spirit agreements made with a serious minded associate in the morning but later avoid on in power who is looking for a whipping boy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can handle a basically vital usual occupational interest in the morning but later make sure you do not go on some uncharted goal that attracts you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Put yourself in the position to

do what a person of experience suggests and later you need to back off from following an instant hunch.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Communicate your wishes to an outside older or more experienced person than you, after which you need to stay away from being in the public gaze.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The manner in which you attend to any task is being noted by one who can be helpful to you but later don't allow a fellow associate to get you in a new venture.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your practical affairs are enhanced by early showing how well you are able to handle them while tonight a new idea could get you in much trouble.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) An idea tossed out by you by one who knows your position can be very helpful to you while later don't make any decisions about a family problem.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get a long time friend to aid you in some public expression, that is vital to your future welfare and then use much care in any communications.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early you can impress one of influence where your expertise is concerned while later it is advisable to refrain from making any material commitments.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA HIRSCH
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1— Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J2 ♠Void ♠KJ954 ♠1098432
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3 0 Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2— Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK842 ♠Void ♠AQJ2 ♠AK97
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.3— As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ854 ♠AQ4 07 ♠J1062
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4— Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A109765 ♠K7 ♠AKJ ♠K6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5— As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQ53 ♠109 0A54 ♠1085
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6— Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ98632 ♠J78 07 ♠93
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Arsenal is no longer title favourite after 2 defeats

LONDON (AP) — After Arsenal's second defeat in a row at the start of English soccer's new Premier League season, Leeds United has replaced the gunners as favourite to win the title.

Arsenal started the campaign as 2-1 favourite with licensed bookmakers William Hill.

After defeats by Norwich and Blackburn, however, the north

London team's odds have shifted to 7-2. William Hill today had Leeds, which won the division one title last season, as 100-30 favourite.

Alan Shearer stunned Arsenal with a dramatic winner five minutes from time to put big-spending Blackburn Rovers on top of England's new Premier League.

Kenny Dalglish's £3.6 million (£6.95 million) striker grabbed his third goal in two games to leave George Graham's Arsenal with a second successive defeat and bottom of the table.

Just when it looked as though an untidy match was ebbing away to a goalless draw, Shearer produced a spectacular effort to startle Arsenal even more than when

he hit a hat-trick against them on his league debut for Southampton nearly five years ago.

He shouldered aside lightweight winger Jimmy Carter to take possession 10 yards inside Arsenal's half and raced on to deliver a thunderous effort from 25 yards which deflected off midfielder David Hillier and spiralled over goalkeeper David Seaman into the top corner of the net.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 20, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Good day for analyzing where you have enjoyed success in the past and to make some excellent new arrangements where you can release all of your energies and make new gains in the future.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Do nothing hastily early then you will find that you will be able to achieve a great deal that is business like and practical where your reputation is concerned.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Wait until you have analyzed carefully whatever new conditions you want to put into motion then you will be able to achieve the results in a satisfactory manner.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider various ways to do those things that will please your romantic attachment and then put them in motion in a very practical manner.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Put aside those questionable practical matters for the time being and concentrate your attention upon making outside progress with your reputation.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You now have to steer clear of some extravagant pleasure and get into the various duties to which you are committed with real operative skill.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't make important home

decisions about a home matter but think in terms of just what you can do to bring your special gifts to the attention of benefactors.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Put off a just want to take and concentrate instead upon the various problems of a down to earth nature facing you at your own residence.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Let that questionable account wait for a day while you get into various other usual situations that require you communicate your views to others.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Don't seek personal answers now but instead get into the best ways and means by which you can handle and attend to your financial affairs.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Dismiss a private worry so that you can get into the many personal goals that most animate you and you will find that you gain your yearnings.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Listen to that friend's complaints later while you attend to some private matter that should not be brought to the attention of any outsiders.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Avoid discussions with a bigwig and put your attention how upon gaining the personal goals which mean much to you and that require very practical approach.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

FRUITS
VEGETABLES
PRODUCE



"If eating plants makes you lose weight, how come elephants and cows are so heavy?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NARVE

MYDAL

LEZZUP

SARATY

Don't let me try to leave early!

THAT LONG-WINDED CONVERSATIONIST WAS NEVER INTERESTING UNTIL HE REACHED THE POINT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

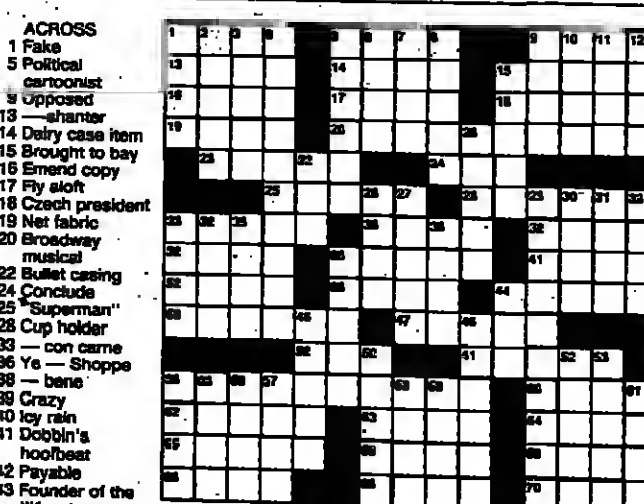
Answer here: OF

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIMY WEARY CARPET REBUKE

Answer: How do witches feel when they play croquet?—"WICKET"

THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Bunch of bananas
2. Hall
3. Menonite offshoot
4. Factory
5. Political cartoonist
6. Opposed
7. Shutter
8. Dairy case item
9. Bridge east
10. Bridge west
11. Emerald copy
12. Fly aloft
13. Czech president
14. Net fabric
15. Broadway musical
16. Buffet eating
17. Conclude
18. Superman
19. Cup holder
20. Non carne
21. Yes — Shoppe
22. bene
23. Crazy
24. Joy ride
25. Dobbins' hoofbeat
26. Playable
27. Founder of the "Keystone State"
28. Factory
29. Optical and tapering
30. Mentally alert
31. Joyful place
32. Bridge east
33. Bridge west
34. Net fabric
35. Broadway musical
36. Buffet eating
37. Conclude
38. Superman
39. Cup holder
40. Non carne
41. Yes — Shoppe
42. bene
43. Crazy
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47. Founder of the "Keystone State"
48. Factory
49. Optical and tapering
50. Mentally alert
51. Joyful place
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53. Bridge west
54. Net fabric
55. Broadway musical
56. Buffet eating
57. Conclude
58. Superman
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60. Non carne
61. Yes — Shoppe
62. bene
63. Crazy
64. Joy ride
65. Dobbins' hoofbeat
66. Playable
67. Founder of the "Keystone State"
68. Factory
69. Optical and tapering
70. Mentally alert

37. Xloping
38. Asparagus unit
39. Arslar's org
40. English river
41. Begin a paragraph
42. Gooey
43. Garbage

53. Stallion
54. Stable baby
55. Jason's ship
56. Cake layer
57. Shaper
58. Lip plant
59. Night light
60. Antidote

هنا نحن الاصل

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK 18/8/92	TOKYO 19/8/92
Swiss Franc	1.4510	1.4510
Deutsche Mark	1.4575	1.4580
Japanese Yen	1.3065	1.3070
French Franc	4.9440	4.9440
Japanese Yen	126.17	126.21
European Currency Unit	1.3955	1.3952

Emergency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	8.34	8.31	8.30	8.30
Swiss Franc	9.87	9.88	9.88	9.88
Deutsche Mark	9.88	9.88	9.88	9.88
Japanese Yen	8.00	8.31	8.31	8.25
French Franc	10.00	10.32	10.18	10.18
Japanese Yen	4.03	3.75	3.50	3.43
European Currency Unit	10.87	10.87	10.87	10.85

Forward Rates

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	0.669	0.669	0.669	0.669
Swiss Franc	1.2876	1.2876	1.2876	1.2876
Deutsche Mark	0.4579	0.4579	0.4579	0.4579
Japanese Yen	0.5108	0.5108	0.5108	0.5108
French Franc	0.1350	0.1350	0.1350	0.1350
Japanese Yen	0.5282	0.5282	0.5282	0.5282
Dutch Guilder	0.4065	0.4065	0.4065	0.4065
Swedish Krona	0.1257	0.1257	0.1257	0.1257
Italian Lira	0.0603	0.0603	0.0603	0.0603
Belgian Franc	0.02226	0.02226	0.02226	0.02226

Other Currencies

Currency	1 MONTH	3 MONTH	6 MONTH	12 MONTH
U.S. Dollar	0.669	0.669	0.669	0.669
Swiss Franc	1.2876	1.2876	1.2876	1.2876
Deutsche Mark	0.4579	0.4579	0.4579	0.4579
Japanese Yen	0.5108	0.5108	0.5108	0.5108
French Franc	0.1350	0.1350	0.1350	0.1350
Japanese Yen	0.5282	0.5282	0.5282	0.5282
Dutch Guilder	0.4065	0.4065	0.4065	0.4065
Swedish Krona	0.1257	0.1257	0.1257	0.1257
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Dutch Guilder	0.4065	0.4065	0.4065	0.4065
Swedish Krona	0.1257	0.1257	0.1257	0.1257
Italian Lira	0.0603	0.0603	0.0603	0.0603
Belgian Franc	0.02226	0.02226	0.02226	0.02226

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	18/8/92	Close	17/8/92	Close
All-Share	142.21	142.21	141.56	141.56
Banking Sector	105.35	105.35	104.62	104.62
Insurance Sector	146.89	146.89	146.33	146.33
Industry Sector	193.28	193.28	192.69	192.69
Services Sector	144.14	144.14	144.05	144.05

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

Currency	Rate	Currency	Rate
One Sterling	1.9275/85	U.S. dollars	1.9275/85
One U.S. dollar	1.1985/90	Canadian dollar	1.4585/90
	1.4585/90	Deutsche marks	1.6400/6300
	1.6400/6300	Dutch guilders	1.3100/10
	1.3100/10	Swiss francs	29.99/03
	29.99/03	Belgian francs	4.9480/30
	4.9480/30	French francs	1107/1108
	1107/1108	Italian lire	126.47/52
	126.47/52	Japanese yen	5.3190/3240
	5.3190/3240	Swedish crowns	5.7535/85
	5.7535/85	Norwegian crowns	5.6295/45
	5.6295/45	Danish crowns	338.25/338.65

Israel initials first trade pact with China

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel announced Wednesday it had signed its first trade agreement with China, seven months after the two countries established formal diplomatic ties.

"It is the first trade agreement between Israel and China," said Marcel Shalom, deputy director of Israel's Foreign Trade Administration.

Israel's state-owned airline El Al announced separately that it would begin weekly flights to China starting Sept. 3.

The trade pact, initially by trade representatives and scheduled to be signed in two months, was the first step in normalizing economic relations with China since it established diplomatic ties with the Jewish state in January.

Mr. Shalom said it was basically a most-favoured-nation trade agreement that would allow Israel to export goods to China subject to the same tariffs and

Sanctions send Yugoslav economy into nosedive

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia is being strangled by U.N. sanctions, the experts say.

"You cannot survive sanctions," consultant Danko Djunic tells Yugoslav companies. "If they are not lifted, we are all finished."

The United Nations imposed an oil and trade embargo on the Serb-dominated rump Yugoslav federation two and a half months ago for its role in the region's ethnic war.

Since then, the already precarious economy has gone into a nosedive.

Living standards have dropped threefold since war broke out last year, and sanctions mean they are likely to be halved again in the next six months, foreign and domestic economists say.

Prices are doubling every month, and inflation is set to rise further. Output has tumbled from 30 to 50 per cent over the last year as factories lose foreign markets and run out of imported raw materials and spare parts.

Although the effects of sanctions are yet to be widely felt on the street and in homes, the outlook is bleak — spiralling unemployment, severe food and energy shortages, rampant black marketing, possibly civil strife.

Mr. Djunic, who heads the private Economics Institute consulting firm, says: "Even if sanctions were lifted tomorrow, it would take us two or three years to get back on our feet."

He believes annual gross national product will fall to \$500 per head by early next year, down from around \$3,000 before the fighting started in the Balkans.

Foreign specialists agree. "Even in a richer country sanctions would have a devastating effect," a European diplomat said.

In addition to the impact of the U.N. sanctions, Serbia and its tiny ally Montenegro have lost trading links with the rest of the former Yugoslav federation — Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and the present battleground, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

War and the threat of spread-

Cuba cultivates Arab and Iranian markets for its sugar exports

HAVANA (R) — Arab countries and Iran are important markets for Cuban sugar and should keep on growing in the future, a senior Cuban sugar trade official said Tuesday.

But Cuba was not selling sugar to Iraq because it was complying with the U.N. resolution that imposed economic sanctions against that country, Alberto Betancourt Roa told Reuters.

The communist-ruled Caribbean island is traditionally the world's biggest exporters of raw sugar.

Mr. Betancourt, deputy foreign trade minister and director of the state sugar selling company Cubazucar, said Cuba had a contract to ship 200,000 tonnes of raw sugar to Iran in 1992.

A further total of 450,000 tonnes were going to Arab countries like Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Libya and Yemen.

Referring to all of these sales, Mr. Betancourt said: "It's an important market for Cuban sugar ... and it should grow even more."

Asked about speculation that Cuba might be shipping sugar to Iraq, Mr. Betancourt categorically denied this.

Mr. Betancourt said the former Soviet Union, which in the past imported about four million tonnes of sugar annually from Cuba under preferential terms, remained an important market.

He predicted that the total raw sugar imports for 1992 of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) would be "surprisingly" higher than estimated by some analysts. But he gave no detailed estimates.

Cuba shipped around one million tonnes of sugar to Russia in the first half of 1992 under a sugar for oil deal and a smaller quantity to Kazakhstan, also for oil.

But Cuban trade sources say Russia has also been buying more Cuban sugar through international trade houses. Cuban officials have not yet disclosed the size of the island's 1991-1992 sugar harvest, described as one of the most difficult ever experienced because of nationwide shortages of oil, lubricants and spare parts.

But officials have said it would not come close to reaching the 7.6 million tonnes produced in 1990-1991.

Wang Laboratories files for bankruptcy

BOSTON (R) — Wang Laboratories Inc., a pioneer among word-processing equipment-makers, filed for U.S. bankruptcy protection Tuesday and said it would eliminate 5,000 jobs or nearly 40 per cent of its workforce.

The decision was a result of increased competition from computer-makers, which over the past decade eroded Wang's word-processing niche with a generation of smaller, faster and more affordable machines.

The company lost hundreds of millions of dollars over last several years, including \$116 million in the three months ending June 30, Wang said Tuesday.

In its filing for chapter 11 protection under the U.S. bankruptcy code, Wang said it would embark on a corporate restructuring that includes focusing on new software and systems products, and laying off 5,000 employees. The company will be left with a workforce of 8,000.

Under the chapter 11 filing, a business is protected from its creditors while it reorganises. Wang said it plans to continue operating without interruption during the reorganisation.

"We expect to emerge from chapter 11 as a smaller, more focused, and more competitive company, with revenues of about \$1.4 billion, compared with \$1.9 billion now, and about 8,000 employees, compared with 13,000 at the time of the filing," chairman and chief executive officer Richard Miller said in a statement.

Revenues in the latest quarter were \$474 million, down from \$492 million a year earlier.

Iran to boost Kharg oil storage capacity, exports

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will soon bring storage capacity at the Kharg island oil terminal, severely damaged during the Iran-Iraq war, up to more than two-thirds of its pre-war capacity, Iranian radio has said.

Reconstruction so far has brought the terminal's capacity, 22 million barrels per day (b/d) before the war, to about 10 million b/d, said the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

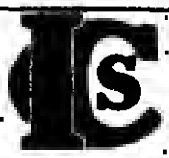
"In continuation of the reconstruction work, we plan to increase oil storage capacity to 16 million barrels per day in the near future," it quoted an official as saying.

The official said that within the next two years Kharg island should be able to load between six and eight million barrels daily for export.

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Special show for children on Thursdays and Fridays on 11:00 a.m.

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Shahrazad and Sinbad play
A quiet comedy for all members of the family (adults and kids). Prior reservation is needed.
The next show is:
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AHLAN THEATRE

Nabil and Hisham
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"Ahlan New World and Local Orders"
Shows start at 9 p.m.

Bosnia Serbs accuse Muslims of provocation at Sarajevo Airport

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Serb forces in Sarajevo accused the Bosnian capital's Muslim defenders of trying to provoke fighting around the U.N.-controlled airport, the Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug reported Wednesday.

The Serbs blamed Muslims for shelling their positions near the airport Tuesday evening.

Tanjug, quoting the Bosnian Serb News Agency SRNA, said the Serb forces, which have besieged Sarajevo since April, did not respond.

"Since any return of fire from the Serb army would have to be across the airport, SRNA notes that this is clearly a provocation aimed at creating the impression that the Serb side is opening fire on the U.N.-controlled airport," Tanjug said.

International aid flights to Sarajevo were suspended Tuesday after the crew of a British Air Force transport plane said it was targeted by a radar battery and may have been fired at from an anti-aircraft position while taking off.

Serb forces, equipped with modern weaponry from the Yugoslav Federal Army which also supplied many of their commanders and men, denied responsibility for the attack.

The Muslims are not thought to

have sophisticated arms or radar but Croat forces are also involved in the fighting, nominally on the Muslim side.

A convoy of 332 women and children evacuated from Sarajevo Tuesday arrived in Belgrade during the night, Tanjug said.

The chief of U.N. peacekeepers arrived Wednesday in Sarajevo to try to cement an agreement that would have given his force supervision over all heavy weapons around the Bosnian capital.

Under the accord, signed Tuesday by Serb nationalists and leaders of Bosnia's Muslim-led government, the big guns would be concentrated in areas under U.N. supervision.

That would enable monitors to determine who is responsible for shelling and to pressure violators to stop.

In Sarajevo, the victims of shelling — and sniper fire — are most often civilian supporters of the Bosnian government or refugees from the countryside.

Among popular targets for gunners in the hills surrounding the capital have been hospitals and refugee hotels, one of which was hit late Monday by mortar fire that killed five people and set the building ablaze.

"If this agreement works, there

will be no shelling in Sarajevo," Zaim Bakovic, a deputy commander of the Bosnian forces, said Tuesday.

U.N. spokesman Adnan Abdul Razak said peacekeepers regard the agreement as "very good news" despite doubts about it being honored.

The accord followed heightened U.N. pressure to halt the 5-month old civil war. International outrage has grown in recent weeks over conditions at Serb-run detention camps and the forced eviction of Muslims and Croats from their homes as part of a Serb policy of so-called "ethnic cleansing."

In Washington, Senate investigators who spent a week in Bosnia this month reported that Serbs have largely accomplished that goal by evicting non-Serbs from about 70 per cent of the republic.

The report, which criticised the U.N. and the State Department for what it called a slow response to the crisis, estimates that 35,000 people have died in the war, most of them — upwards of 20,000 — in the forced evacuations of Muslim villages.

In addition more than a million people have fled their homes in Bosnia-Herzegovina since the republic's majority Muslim and

Croats voted for independence on Feb. 29.

The plane that brought Gen. Satish Nambiar, an Indian who commands U.N. forces in the former Yugoslav Federation, into Sarajevo Wednesday was one of just two to arrive by midday.

A steady stream of relief flights has brought food and medicine to the besieged capital since June 29.

U.N. relief officials say they fear a radical rise in the death toll with the onset of winter, with cold and starvation killing more people than shells or bullets.

Sylvana Fao, spokeswoman of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said in Geneva Tuesday that more than 2 million people are at risk because they have fled their homes or have no heat and no windows of keep out the cold.

She said agencies need supplies including plastic sheeting to replace blasted-out windows, tents, blankets, fuel, water purification equipment, heaters and chemical toilets.

The Yugoslav government sent a dozen trucks Wednesday carrying 70 tonnes of food and medicine towards Sarajevo and the besieged town of Gorazde, where up to 100,000 people, mostly Muslims.



Serb soldiers take cover during fighting in Bosnia against Croat and Muslim fighters

Russia marks sombre coup anniversary

MOSCOW (R) — A Russian security official said Wednesday that hardline KGB forces had survived the failure of last August's coup and suggested they might be waiting to claw back power from President Boris Yeltsin.

"In the life of citizens of 'free Russia' precious little has changed," Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Kichikhin, a member of a parliamentary commission probing the KGB, said.

"The security organs remain above the state."

On the anniversary of the abortive coup against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, conservative Vice-President Alexander Rutskoy also struck a pessimistic note.

Empirically, he was, had given way to disillusionment over economic hardship.

"The last year was a year of

missed chances," Mr. Rutskoy told Russian Television. "One cannot exploit endlessly the faith and patience of the people."

In Moscow's central squares, red, white and yellow streamers added a hint of gaiety to the city. But there were few other outward signs of anniversary celebrations.

Kichikhin, in remarks published by Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper, said that despite formal changes in the Russian power structure, a ban on the Communist Party and the collapse of the Soviet Union itself, "actors in the August events calmly retain their seats and offices."

"Where's the guarantee this is not just a breathing space?" he asked.

He said officials of the Ministry of Security, successor organisation of the KGB, had blocked his

investigations into the security organs' role in the coup.

KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov was a leading member of the emergency committee, also including Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov, which he'd Mr. Gorbachev at his Crimean holiday villa on the night of Aug. 18 and sent tanks into Moscow the next day.

Mr. Kryuchkov, jailed in Moscow's Saitov's Rest Prison, awaits trial with six other committee members. The top echelons of the KGB were purged after the coup, but the body which enforced Communist rule for seven decades remained largely intact.

"It was clear by October there would be no fundamental break with the totalitarian system and its armed wing — the KGB," Mr. Kichikhin said.

S. Korea, U.S. begin joint wargames

SEOUL (R) — South Korea and the United States began high tech joint wargames Wednesday, linking supercomputers in Europe and the United States to command centres here to simulate a mock Korean War.

North Korea reacted angrily to the Uchi-Focus Lens 1992 exercises, accusing the United States and South Korea of "pushing the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war."

"Focus Lens '92... is an extremely dangerous war game aimed at gratifying their aggressive desire by a surprise preemptive strike at the northern half of Korea from the ground, sky and sea," said Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo.

This exercise marks the first try-out of the U.S. military's computer-generated battle simulation system in a war theatre-level command exercise, a statement released by the U.S. Forces Korea said.

It said battle simulation centres at four locations in South Korea are linked to mainframe computer centres at Fort Lewis, Washington, and Einsiedlerhof, Germany.

The 17th annual Focus Lens exercise is larger than normal because of the cancellation earlier this year of the yearly Team Spirit U.S.-South Korean War Games.

A U.S. military spokesman last week said 14,000 American servicemen, the majority stationed in South Korea, plus 4,000 from the United States, will take part in the wargames.

Ground, sea and air battles will be simulated over the next 12 days to test command, control and communications networks and intelligence gathering procedures.

A U.S. military official said tactics and lessons learned during the Gulf war will be incorporated into the exercises.

South Korean Defence Ministry officials declined to comment on the number of South Koreans participating in the war games.

But a spokesman said the number will be reduced this year from last year's levels.

He said military field training

would be staged between Sept. 1 and 5, immediately after Focus Lens.

Team Spirit was called off as a gesture earlier this year to Pyongyang during a slight thaw in relations between the two nations still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean conflict. Relations have since deteriorated.

Pyongyang scrapped a planned reunion this month of war-split families divided by the Korean cold war frontier after Seoul and Washington refused to call off the wargames.

A spokesman for North Korea's Foreign Ministry warned Seoul it regarded the joint exercises as a serious military threat.

"The United States and South Korean authorities, going against the trend toward détente and reunification, are again staging large-scale military exercises that lay grave obstacles to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula," the spokesman said in a statement monitored in Tokyo.

Abkhazians defy Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Abkhazian separatists, driven from their capital Sukhumi by Georgian troops, raised the flag of defiance Wednesday further up the Black Sea coast.

"We shall fight until we win our freedom or they annihilate us," Zurab Achba, a member of the Abkhazian parliament, told ITAR-TASS News Agency.

He was speaking by telephone from Gudauta, 80 kilometres up the coast, where many Abkhazian deputies fled as Georgian tanks and troops occupied Sukhumi Tuesday.

Mr. Achba said the deputies were organising "armed resistance to the occupying troops," of the former Soviet republic's ruling State Council from Gudauta.

Interfax News Agency quoted the Abkhazians as saying at least 70 people had been killed since the conflict broke out a week ago.

Interfax also said a Russian soldier from one of the former Soviet units still stationed at Gudauta was killed when his helicopter came under fire.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who says Abkhazia is an integral part of Georgia, sent in his forces after the region's parliament effectively declared independence in July.

He said the troops were trying to rescue a dozen senior government officials kidnapped last week by rebels loyal to ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Another senior official kidnapped by the rebels a month earlier

in western Georgia returned to Tbilisi Wednesday.

Alexander Kavtsadze, one of four deputy prime ministers, told a local reporter he had managed to escape from his captors on Abkhazia's eastern border.

Only two officials remain in rebel hands. They are Deputy Police Chief Zebert Khazalia and David Solodze, an official of the State Council.

Mr. Gamsakhurdia's supporters have waged a low-level guerrilla war against Mr. Shevardnadze's rule in western Georgia, and this has become confused with the Abkhazian independence drive.

The Georgian government has demanded the resignation of Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Abkhazian parliament and effective leader of the rebellion.

Interfax quoted an Abkhazian spokesman as saying Mr. Ardzinba was still in office and had presided at a parliamentary meeting in Gudauta Tuesday.

Most of the town's inhabitants are Abkhazians, who now make up only around a quarter of their region's population.

The spokesman said Georgian forces had tried to press on up the coast towards Gudauta, but had been stopped by Abkhazian fighters on the outskirts of Sukhumi Tuesday.

Georgian guardsmen who moved into the Abkhazian capital in force said they suffered no casualties. Six people were killed when their flat was hit by a missile fired from a helicopter, residents said.

Pakistan, India talks end on upbeat note

NEW DELHI (R) — Talks between old enemies India and Pakistan ended on an optimistic note Wednesday, with the signing of two agreements and Islamabad saying the dialogue was the most productive ever.

Indian Foreign Secretary Jyotindra Nath Dixit and his Pakistani counterpart Shaharyar Khan signed an agreement on banning the use of chemical weapons and a code of conduct on the treatment of diplomats.

Mr. Khan told reporters the two sides had agreed to discuss Kashmir, the Himalayan region both nations claim, and this was a major advance.

"Our positions remain widely apart but the very fact we are able to talk about it is in itself a step forward," he said.

"It is our view that Kashmir is the fundamental core issue for the tensions between the two countries. It has caused tensions, even wars," he said.

"I am most satisfied with what we have accomplished. I can state without hesitation that this has been the most productive round of bilateral talks," Mr. Khan said. "We are trying to resolve problems and not score points."

India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two over Kashmir, since they were born out of the British-ruled subcontinent in 1947. Fresh tensions flared in 1990 after Muslim militants launched a revolt in Indian-ruled Kashmir, demanding independence or merger with Pakistan.

Woody Allen denies molesting children

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Woody Allen had warned Mia Farrow that by the time his custody battle for their three children reached court, "there would be nothing of her left standing," a confidante of the actress says.

The normally press-shy Allen, meanwhile, went public Tuesday to deny allegations that he molested two of their children. He charged that the allegations were being used as a weapon against him in the custody dispute.

The filmmaker also accused Farrow's lawyers of trying to extort 7 million from him in return for dropping the allegations, which are under investigation by Connecticut State Police.

Allen, 56, filed for custody last week of the couple's adopted daughter, age 7, their adopted son, 14, and their 4½-year-old biological son. Allen said Farrow — his leading lady in many of his movies — had been a couple for at least 12 years, but never wed and lived apart.

In quick succession this week, Allen was forced to acknowledge news reports emanating from Farrow's camp that he is having an affair with Farrow's adult

daughter Soon-Yi Previn, and he was forced to answer allegations of molesting the two younger children.

On Tuesday, Maria Roach, godmother to one of the children and a confidante of Farrow's, said that "Woody told (Farrow) that by the time this custody hearing comes about on the 25th, there would be nothing of her left standing."

Miss Roach, who said she was speaking with Farrow's approval, said Allen accused his former lover of being an unfit mother and partner because she was taking antidepressants prescribed by a psychiatrist.

A call to Farrow's spokesman, John Springer, went unanswered early Wednesday. Farrow has not commented on the dispute.

Miss Roach said Farrow learned of the affair between Allen and Miss Previn last winter.

Miss Previn, a Korean orphan adopted by Farrow and her then-husband, conductor Andre Previn, is believed to be about 21.

"Apparently it was a clandestine thing for sometime. Mia discovered it inadvertently," Miss Roach said. "I can't begin to describe her reaction."

Miss Roach said the family was

thrown into turmoil with cries of, "daddy is sleeping with your sister" the whole family was in psychiatric care for several months, she said. Five of Farrow's 11 children still live at home.

Miss Roach said she received a letter from Farrow that said: "Obviously, my vision has been unclear and I have spent more than a dozen years with a man who would destroy me and corrupt my daughter, leading her into a betrayal of her mother and her principles, leaving her morally bankrupt with the bond between us demolished. I can think of no crueler way to lose a child or a lover."

Farrow's spokesman told the New York Daily News that Farrow has a videotape of the couple's 7-year-old daughter describing how Allen allegedly abused her.

On Tuesday, Allen told reporters, "this is my lawyers tell me is a currently popular though heinous card played in all too many of child custody fights."

He also said he refused a request by Farrow's lawyers for \$7 million in exchange for their not pursuing the child-molestation allegations.

Barbara Bush tries to mend abortion rift in party

HOUSTON (R) — Barbara Bush attempted to mend a rift in the U.S. Republican Party over abortion and denounced a report that her husband, President George Bush, had an extramarital affair as a "disgusting" lie.

Mrs. Bush, using her overwhelming popularity as an influential voice at the Republican national convention, took up where she left off last week when she said abortion was a personal choice and should be left out of the Republican Party platform.

After divisive debate, the party included in its policy manifesto a call for a constitutional ban on abortion.

Mr. Bush has placed himself in a rigid position against abortion, but his wife is making clear that there is room in the party for those who favour abortion.

Opinion polls show most Americans favour abortion rights but do not oppose restrictions such as requiring teenagers to notify their parents.

Mrs. Bush seemed to be reaching out to those people as she tries to transfer some of her own popularity to her struggling husband, who faces a long uphill battle to win re-election.

"You know, I have a lot of friends here who are pro-life. I have a lot of friends here who are pro-choice. All of us have one thing in common — we're pro-Bush," she told Cable News Network in an interview.

"We're letting pro-choice and pro-life people speak (at the convention). That's very important. Our party is inclusive, not exclusive," she said.

Her son, Neil Bush, acknowledged in an interview on KHOU television in Houston that there was a difference of opinion within the Bush family on abortion.

"Sure there is. There's a division in the country, too," he said without elaboration.

Mrs. Bush was also insistent in her condemnation of a New York Post story that quoted a book claiming that a U.S. envoy to Geneva who is now dead, Louis Fields, set up adjoining rooms in Geneva in 1984 for Mr. Bush and a staff member and that the objective seemed to be romance.

"I think it's disgraceful," Mrs. Bush said. "It's worse, in my opinion, to print a hurtful, harmful story about the president of the United States from a man who's dead, and they're all lies. With no proof, that's disgusting."

At a bacon-and-egg breakfast at a Houston hotel, Mrs. Bush tried to drum up some grass-roots support with a get-out-the-vote speech to black Republicans.

"We really need you," she said at the event billed as Black America Salutes the First Family.

"We cannot win unless each and every one of us calls on friends. Link those envelopes. Put up those yard signs. Do all the things we have to do and vote on election day," she said.

Some of those who heard her speak made clear they prefer Barbara over George.

"I'm more a fan of Barbara Bush than her husband," said Eunice Bradford after she shook hands with the first lady. "She's a

great asset to him (the president)."

"I think deep down inside Barbara Bush is a liberal," said Mrs. Bradford, a 65-year-old mother of three. "I really wish Barbara Bush could be the wife of Bill Clinton, that they could change hands. Then we'd have a good balance."

Meanwhile, Bill Clinton on Tuesday dismissed as hollow lies the broadsides (lobbed at him from the podium of the Republican convention).

"They are persistently telling things that they know aren't true. I mean it's blatantly untrue," he told reporters during a visit to the Arkansas statehouse.

"They talked about yesterday, and that's where they are. They're sort of mixed in yesterday. (Pat) Buchanan was ... rights wing extremism, gross distortion of my wife's record."

"It's sort of sad to see what they've descended to."

On Monday night the conservative Buchanan, who had challenged President George Bush in earlier Republican primaries who is now an outspoken supporter, launched an acid-penned attack on both Clinton and his wife.

He said Hillary Clinton "believes that 12-year-olds should have a right to sue their parents and Hillary has compared marriage as an institution to slavery — and life on an Indian reservation."

Dee Dee Myers, Mr. Clinton's press secretary, called the attacks "narrow and divisive," adding: "It's an indication of the hol-

lowness of their message. They don't want to talk about their record. They have no vision, so they (go after) Bill Clinton, then his wife. What's next? His daughter? The people he went to grammar school with?"

The Arkansas governor, still with a comfortable lead in the polls, is spending a few days in his home state before heading out later this week on another city-to-city bus tour.

Asked if he was worried that the charges might cut into his lead, he said:

"Historically ... the Republican convention always gives the Republican nominee a bump. And they're doing what they do best."

He added that the Republicans are down to throwing the "kitchen sink" at their opponents.

Mr. Clinton also took exception to George Bush evoking the memory of the late Democratic President Harry Truman to describe his hoped-for election comeback.

"Harry Truman at least tried to take responsibility for the country. George Bush blames everybody else for his problems. George Bush refused to take any responsibility, refused to propose any real, significant changes in economic policy, refused to do what it takes to get this country going again," he said.

Truman had a sign on his desk that said "the buck stops here." Mr. Clinton has a sign on his administration that says "the buck stops everywhere else," Mr. Clinton said.

COLUMN

Japan town plans love boat cruise to spur romance

TOKYO (R) — Concerned about a declining marriage rate, officials-turned-matchmakers in northern Japan are hosting an overnight love boat cruise in hopes of stirring romance. "The number of single adults is growing in the region," said a Miyagi prefectural official in Sendai, north of Tokyo. "We thought we'd help promote exchange among the single people of the region by arranging an overnight ship cruise," said the planning official. More than 3,200 eligible men and women, most of them in their late 20s and 30s, applied for the two-day cruise scheduled to begin on Sept. 5, the official said. A total 480, evenly divided among the sexes, were selected by lottery. He was quick to add that all participants were assured of privacy during the cruise. "Everyone will have their own cabin," he said. The government of Miyagi, a major rice-growing region, is dishing out 30 million yen (\$240,000) to charter the ship and cover the cost of a dinner party and other on-board events.

Soccer club redraws mural to show black fans

LONDON — Top London soccer club Arsenal has been forced to repaint a vast mural of its supporters after complaints that it failed to show any black faces among the 8,000 people depicted on the hoarding. A club spokesman said the huge stained-sized mural, which conceals construction work, was being amended to make it depict a true "full cross-section of our supporters." The original showed an all-white crowd. Craig Brewin of the Association of Football Supporters said the mural for Arsenal, which has several black players as well as supporters, had been "insensitive, amateur and shoddy."

Pakistani assembly wants ban on drinking

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's National Assembly has passed a resolution demanding a total ban on alcohol. Drinking is already prohibited for Pakistan's Muslims — 96 per cent of the population — and is punishable with flogging under Islamic Laws. The resolution, sponsored by orthodox Islamic cleric, called for the ban to be extended to non-Muslims, who at present may drink in private. The government is not required to implement it. Some moderate deputies later said they opposed the measure but did not do so publicly for fear of criticism from clergy, who want total enforcement of the Islamic code of Sharia.

Newly pregnant women urged to avoid hot tubs

CHICAGO — Women who soak in hot tubs or saunas in the early stages of pregnancy risk harming their babies, according to a U.S. study. A link exists between pregnant women who expose themselves to those heat sources during their first trimester and infants with a defect of the brain and spinal cord known as neural tube defect, the study said. "The data are sufficiently compelling to warn women that hot tub use during the first six weeks of pregnancy may be harmful to the developing foetus," one of the researchers said. "It is a safe and harmless recommendation" that could potentially do good.

Topless fergie won't set Paris Match alight

PARIS — Paris match magazine denied it was about to publish pictures of Britain's Duchess of York frolicking topless in the south of France. British newspapers said pictures of Fergie topless and cavorting in Saint Tropez with Texan millionaire Johnny Bryan had been sold to Paris Match and would appear Thursday. One paper said that in one shot Bryan was sucking the red-haired duchess's big toe. Paris Match said it had been offered photographs which purported to show Prince Andrew's estranged wife from so far away it was not even clear if it was her.

Zoo workers attacked, bitten — by visitors

WARSAW — Workers at a Polish zoo have been attacked and badly bitten... by visitors. Two young men who tried to get into Wroclaw Zoo in southwest Poland without paying their entrance money bit two ticket inspectors who challenged them, Polish News Agency reported. Zoo Director Antoni Gucwinski said one of the workers still had his hand in a sling after the weekend attack.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم"